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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Final

Butte District Office

January 1991

SLEEPING GIANT AND SHEEP CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MONTANA STATE OFFICE
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BILLINGS, MONTANA 59107-6800



IN REPLY TO:

Dear Reader:

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement is presented for your review and comment. This document evaluates the environmental effects of two alternative classifications — an All Wilderness designation and a No Wilderness designation. The proposed action recommends that the two WSAs be designated wilderness and included in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Issues and scoping information are presented in Chapter 1, alternatives are described in Chapter 2 and the effects of the alternatives on the appropriate issues are disclosed in Chapter 4.

The two WSAs lie adjacent to one another and are separated by a powerline and maintenance road. They are located near Holter Lake in west-central Montana some 30 miles north of the capital city of Helena.

The final wilderness decision for this EIS is subject to congressional action. If you would like to comment on this final EIS, please direct your concerns to your federal congressional delegates.

The draft EIS was issued in February, 1990. The public comment period ended May 9, 1990. A formal public hearing was held on March 27, 1990 in Helena, Montana. For additional information about this EIS please contact:

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Sincerely,

Acting State Director



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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WILDERNESS STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

January 1991

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Robert W. Fairfield IV

Acting State Director

ABSTRACT

The wilderness environmental impact statement evaluates the suitability of the 6,487-acre Sleeping Giant WSA and the 3,927-acre Sheep Creek WSA for designation as wilderness. These WSAs are located near Holter Lake in Lewis and Clark County, west-central Montana. The capital city of Helena is approximately 30 miles south while Great Falls is some 60 miles northeast.

This wilderness study/EIS recommends that the two WSAs be designated as wilderness. The proposed action is to manage these areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy of 1981.

For further information contact Brad Rixford, Project Manager, Butte District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 3388, Butte, Montana 59702 or phone (406) 494-5059.

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SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This final wilderness study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared in compliance with Sections 603 and 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Its purpose is to analyze the suitability or unsuitability of two wilderness study areas (WSAs) for designation as wilderness, in accordance with the guidelines in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The two WSAs analyzed in this document are Sleeping Giant (6,487 acres) and Sheep Creek (3,927 acres). Sleeping Giant is being reviewed under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA while Sheep Creek is being reviewed under Section 202 of the same act. Although the study guidance is similar, reporting procedures vary under the two sections of the act.

SETTING

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek study areas are located near Holter Lake in Lewis and Clark County, west-central Montana. The capital city of Helena is approximately 30 miles south while Great Falls is some 60 miles northeast. The two wilderness study areas are adjacent to one another and are separated by a powerline and an associated maintenance road.

STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed action recommends the All Wilderness alternative for both Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek with no boundary modifications. If this recommendation is endorsed by Congress, the two WSAs will be included within the National Wilderness Preservation System and an area-specific wilderness management plan completed to ensure long-term wilderness protection. Both areas will continue to be managed under the Wilderness Interim Management Guidelines of BLM until Congress acts.

The proposed action in this final EIS is a reversal from the draft EIS released to the public on February 7, 1990. Rationale for the change from the no wilderness alternative in the draft to the all wilderness alternative is as follows:

- Public comments received on the draft were overwhelmingly supportive of long-term wilderness protection. Of the 87 responses received all but two supported designation of both WSAs. The majority

of the commenters were from Helena and Great Falls and many had personally hiked within the area. All state agency comments also supported wilderness.

- The skyline profile of the Sleeping Giant is an important local landmark. Designation of the WSAs would provide a national wilderness setting to proximity residents in Helena (state capital) and Great Falls.
- Wilderness would best compliment the surrounding land designations already established by other managing agencies over the long-term. See the Special Designation map.
- Designation would not significantly affect the ability of Montana Power Company to manage the bisecting powerline or the existing shoreline of the reservoir given their future management plans.
- The Bureau's goals for the extensive, land exchange efforts in this area have been to preserve the high scenic, natural, wildlife, and nonmotorized recreational values. Legislative designation of these WSAs would ensure the long-term protection of these outstanding characteristics.
- Given the low mineral potential, remoteness of the area and absence of any past or present development interests, the split-estate ownership presents no anticipated impacts to wilderness management. This management concern is not considered critical enough to solely justify a no wilderness recommendation.
- The WSAs are inaccessible to motorized vehicles and the proposed boundaries would be identifiable to users.

ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

During the scoping phase of this study, a number of issues and alternatives were suggested for consideration by the public and the BLM interdisciplinary team to guide the selection of the proposed action. These preliminary issues and alternatives were then examined for significance and relevancy. Issues carried forward for detailed evaluation include impacts on wilderness values, livestock management and decorative stone mining for the Sleeping Giant WSA and impacts on wilderness values and livestock management for the Sheep Creek WSA. Several other issues were

considered but not selected for detailed analysis. See the section on issue scoping for specific rationale.

Alternatives analyzed specific to each WSA are All Wilderness (proposed action) and No Wilderness.

Sleeping Giant

All Wilderness (Proposed Action)

Designation of the entire WSA (6,487 acres) would ensure long-term protection for the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, and supplemental features. Decorative slate mining within the WSA would be closed and all future excavation activities would be directed off-site. The current authorization of 225 AUMs for livestock grazing would continue. Range management activities and the planned projects for this allotment would not be affected.

No Wilderness

The entire WSA (6,487 acres) would be recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation. Nondesignation of the WSA (continuation of ACEC management) would not significantly degrade the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation, or supplemental features.

The 25-acre area of commercial slate reserves within the WSA would be available for excavation. If mined at a projected rate of about 25 tons per year, surface disturbance

over a 20 year period would equal about 1/10 of an acre. This excavation would not create any new road construction. All activities would be subject to unnecessary and undue degradation regulations, an approved plan of operations, and adequate bonding for reclamation.

Grazing management activities and production levels would continue with no differing effects.

Sheep Creek

All Wilderness (Proposed Action)

Designation of the entire WSA (3,927 acres) would ensure long-term preservation of all wilderness values. This designation would not significantly affect any present or future pending activities within the area. The current authorization of 135 AUMs for livestock grazing would continue. Range management activities and the planned projects for improving this allotment would not be affected.

No Wilderness

The entire WSA would be recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation. The continuation of ACEC management would emphasize resource protection. Given the use restrictions placed on potential surface-disturbing activities, coupled with the area's inaccessible terrain and low potential for mineral entry, no impairment of natural values is foreseeable in the future. Grazing management activities and production levels would continue with no differing effects.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

The purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to document the environmental effects and consequences that are likely to occur under two alternatives for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The EIS analyzes the effects of either designating each WSA as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System (under provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the BLM Wilderness Management Policy Document of 1981), or of recommending against such designation and managing both of the WSAs as an area of critical environmental concern (ACEC) as established through the Headwaters Resource Management Plan of 1984. Management in the latter case would be in accordance with the Sleeping Giant ACEC Management Plan of 1988.

Pursuant to the Wilderness Act and FLPMA, only Congress can ultimately decide which areas, if any, will be designated as wilderness and added to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that "major federal actions which would significantly affect the human environment" be analyzed and documented in an environmental impact statement. BLM policy is that an EIS will be prepared for all wilderness study recommendations.

The Sleeping Giant WSA has been analyzed under the authority of Section 603 of FLPMA. Direction under this section requires that a final wilderness or nonwilderness decision be made by Congress.

The Sheep Creek WSA has been analyzed under the authority of Section 202 of FLPMA. Direction under this section requires that a wilderness recommendation be finalized through congressional action while nonwilderness recommendations need only be approved by BLM.

Procedures and format for documenting the analysis of the two WSAs are identical. The EIS fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act, FLPMA, BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1601), and the BLM Wilderness Study Policy.

SETTING

The two WSAs are located near Holter Lake in Lewis and Clark County, west central Montana. The city of Helena is approximately 30 miles to the south, while Great Falls is some 60 miles northeast. See the Regional Map.

Both WSAs lie within the Sleeping Giant ACEC, which totals some 11,609 acres of public land. Management of the ACEC emphasizes the protection and enhancement of its primitive recreation, scenic and wildlife values.

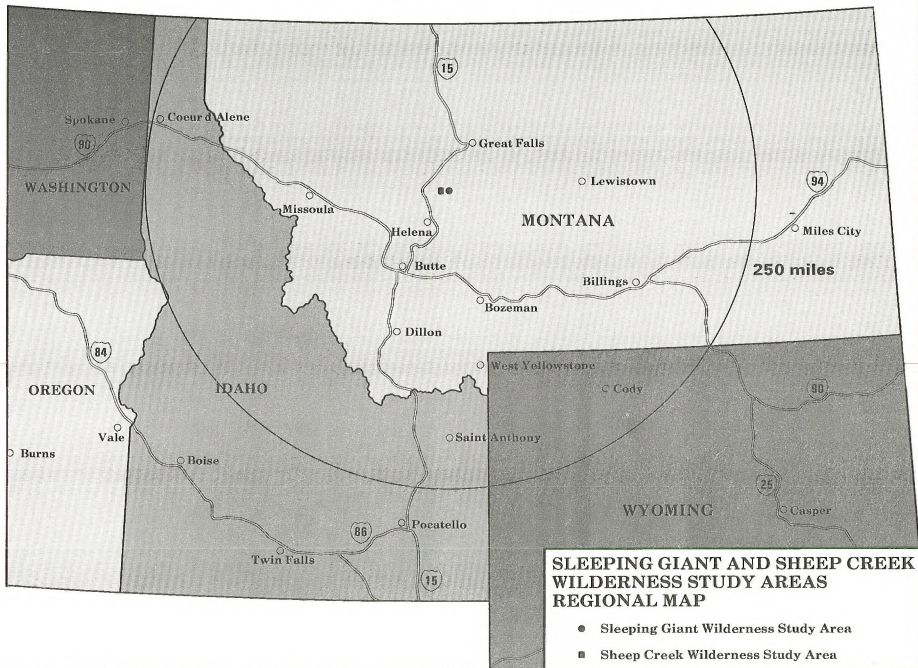
Other special designation areas along the Missouri River near these BLM study areas include the Beartooth Game Range and the Gates-of-the-Mountains Game Preserve (both administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks); and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area and the adjoining Big Log Roadless Area (both administered by the U.S. Forest Service). See the Special Designation Map.

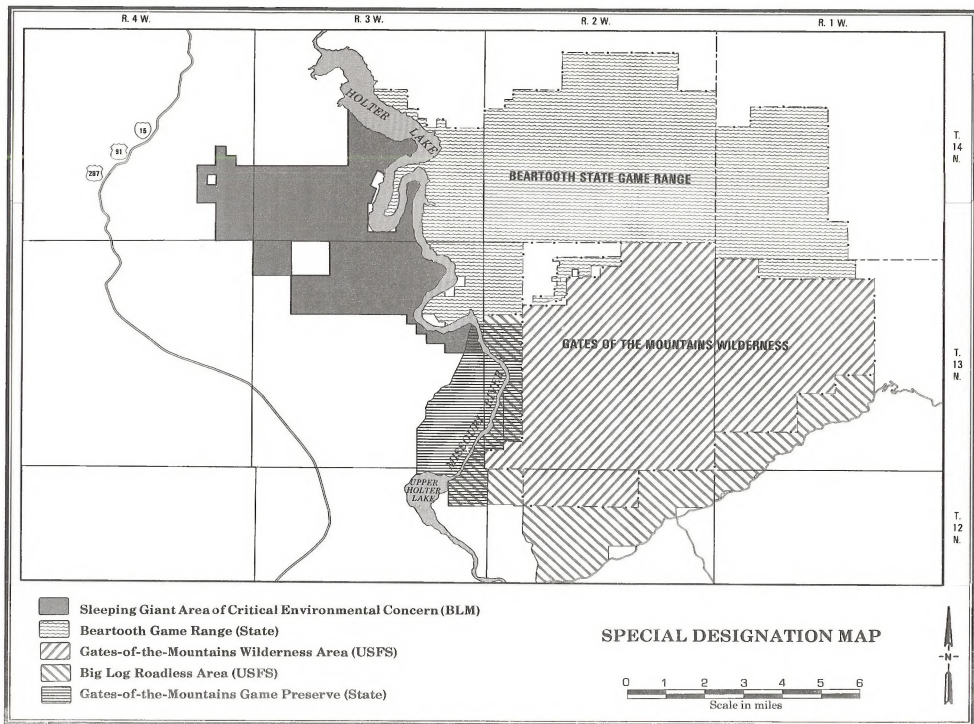
Holter Lake and the Missouri River are directly east of the Sleeping Giant WSA. This water body is extremely popular for a wide variety of public recreation activities. Visitors commonly use the lake and shoreline for boating, fishing, water skiing, swimming, photography, nature study, picnicking and overnight camping. Developments along the shoreline in the vicinity of the Sleeping Giant WSA include two developed recreation areas, two marinas, two lodges, several trailer parks and numerous summer homes.

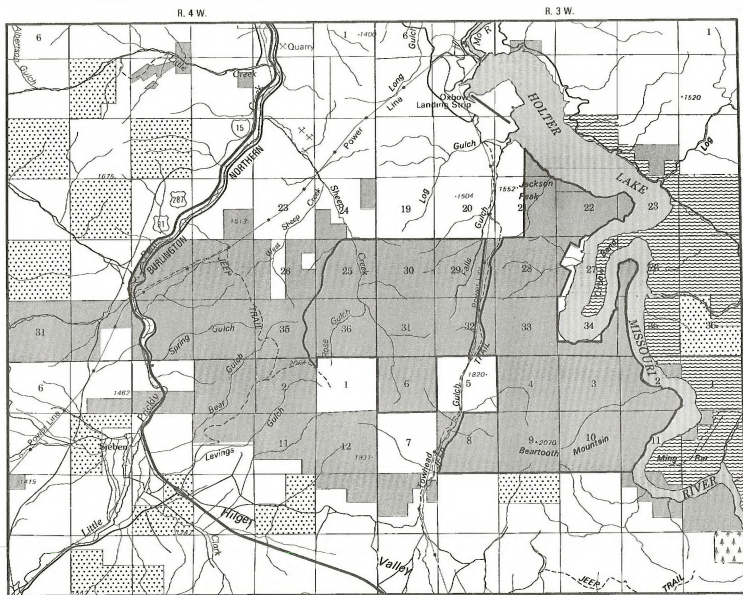
The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs are separated by a powerline and an associated maintenance road. This powerline has a 40-foot right-of-way and is owned and managed by the Montana Power Company (MPC). See the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs Location Map.

Public access to these WSAs is by boat from Holter Lake or by vehicle via the Wood Siding Gulch Road which terminates on public land west of the Sheep Creek WSA boundary.

The Sleeping Giant WSA totals 6,487 acres; the Sheep Creek WSA totals 3,967 acres. Surface ownership of both WSAs is entirely BLM while the subsurface ownership is mixed federal and private ownership. Approximately 4,327 acres (40 percent of the two WSAs) contain mineral estate that is entirely or partially owned by six private parties. See Table 1-1 and the Mineral Ownership Map for further information.



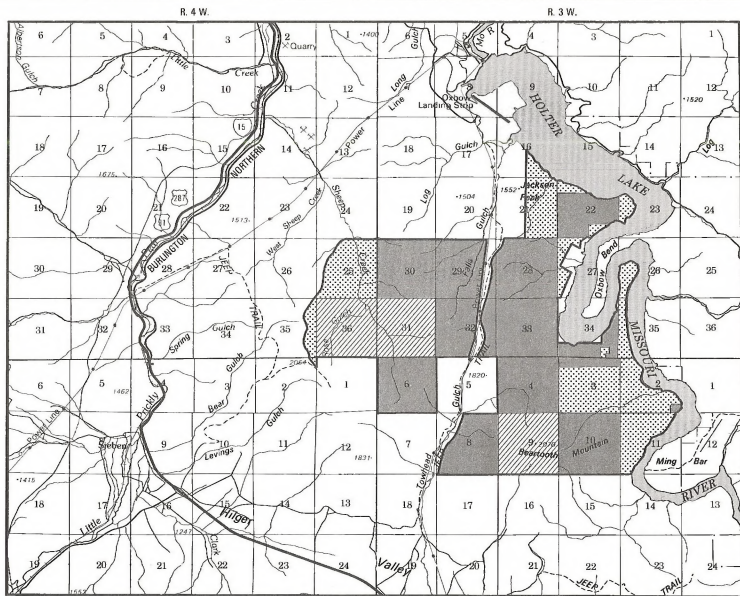







- | | |
|---|--|
|  BLM |  State Game Range |
|  Private |  Forest Service |
|  State |  WSA Boundary |

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

SLEEPING GIANT AND SHEEP CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS LOCATION MAP



Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSA Boundaries

-  BLM — All Minerals
-  Private — All Minerals
-  Private — Oil and Gas Only

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

SLEEPING GIANT AND SHEEP CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS MINERAL OWNERSHIP MAP

TABLE 1-1

PRIVATE MINERALS OWNERSHIP BY WSA

WSA Name	Private Acreage All Minerals	Private Acreage Oil & Gas Only	Total Private Acreage	Total Private Percentage
Sleeping Giant	1,967	640	2,607	40
Sheep Creek	470	1,250	1,720	43

The two WSA names are derived from their most prominent geographical features. The Sleeping Giant is a geologic formation created by the skyline profile of Beartooth Mountain and lower-elevation rock outcroppings that resemble a human figure on its back. The feature is visible from the city of Helena. Sheep Creek is the WSA's primary perennial stream and drainage.

The topography of the two WSAs is steep and irregular with elevations ranging from 3,600 feet along Holter Lake to 6,792 feet at the summit of Beartooth Mountain. Approximately 50 percent of the area is forested with ponderosa, limber and lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and cottonwoods. The remaining landscape is characterized by sedimentary rock ledges, talus slopes and native grasslands.

BACKGROUND

When the BLM wilderness review program began in 1978, public lands in the Sleeping Giant area totaled about 6,800 acres of noncontiguous parcels interspersed with private and state lands. The State Director's Final Initial Wilderness Inventory decision of August, 1979 removed the entire area from further wilderness consideration because the area was comprised of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands.

Following the completion of the Sleeping Giant land exchange in March 1981 an intensive wilderness inventory was conducted. Through this inventory process, the Sleeping Giant WSA (6,112 acres) was established in October 1981. The Sheep Creek area west of the dividing powerline and maintenance road was dropped from further wilderness consideration due to its limited size.

In 1982, the Director removed Sleeping Giant from further wilderness consideration. This action resulted from two solicitor's opinions that directly affected the land status of the WSA. The first stated that lands acquired after the passage of FLPMA (1976) were not subject to wilderness review under Section 603 of FLPMA. The second dictated that lands encumbered with private minerals could not be designated as wilderness.

As a consequence, other management options were analyzed in the Headwaters RMP in 1983, and the current 11,609-acre Sleeping Giant ACEC was administratively designated through the State Director's Record of Decision in July 1984.

The Sleeping Giant area was reinstated as a WSA in 1985. This change was due to the court decision rendered in the Sierra Club vs. Watt case regarding private minerals, and due to a modification of the earlier solicitor's opinion which recognized BLM's discretionary authority to review post-FLPMA acquired lands for wilderness under Section 202 of FLPMA. With this change, the BLM Butte District Office conducted an intensive wilderness review in 1987 of all BLM lands in the vicinity of the existing Sleeping Giant WSA. This review included all public lands acquired through four land exchanges that had occurred since the inventory of 1981. The final inventory decision announced in June 1988 established the 3,967-acre Sheep Creek WSA and increased the Sleeping Giant WSA to its current size of 6,487 acres.

OVERVIEW OF THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

The wilderness review process developed by the BLM to carry out the wilderness mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA consists of three phases: inventory, study and reporting. Planning requirements for wilderness studies involve the consideration of planning criteria, quality standards and the current resource management plan. See Appendix A for a detailed explanation.

SCOPING FOR THE TWO WSA'S INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Scoping, when viewed in the context of NEPA, is the first step in the EIS process. During scoping, issues are identified, alternative management strategies are tentatively formulated, and other concerns pertinent to the environmental analysis are addressed. The results of scoping are continually modified and refined during the EIS process based on public review, interdisciplinary team analysis, and management involvement.

The two existing WSAs were established through the final intensive inventory in June of 1988, and shortly thereafter a Federal Register notice was issued announcing the beginning of the wilderness study. During this phase, the public was provided opportunities to comment through meetings, Federal Register notices and local press releases. Public comments were then reviewed and a BLM interdis-

disciplinary team formulated a number of potential study issues and alternatives. These issues were presented in the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Issue Scoping document and mailed to 170 organizations, businesses and individuals for comment in August 1988.

The issues addressed in the scoping document were:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Wildlife | • Wilderness |
| • Recreation | • Minerals and Energy |
| • Range | • Utility Corridors |
| • Cultural Resources | • Economics |

Public comments on the issues brochure were used by an interdisciplinary team to refine the issues for analysis in the environmental impact statement. The identified issues were then revised and evaluated for significant effects and relevancy. Issues that were unaffected or that did not change significantly under the varying management strategies were not carried forward for analysis.

The finalized list of issues documented in this EIS:

- | <i>Sleeping Giant</i> | <i>Sheep Creek</i> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Impacts on wilderness values | 1. Impacts on wilderness values |
| 2. Impacts on decorative stone mining | 2. Impacts on livestock management |
| 3. Impacts on livestock management | |

The following discussion summarizes the results of scoping for the WSAs analyzed in this EIS. See Chapter 5 and Appendix B for more information regarding the issue-identification process specific to this EIS.

Scoping Common to Both WSA's

The following results of scoping apply equally to both WSAs.

Issues That Do Not Require Detailed Analysis

Effects on Utility Powerline Management. A 100 kv powerline with a 40-foot right-of-way and maintenance road separates the two WSAs. The Montana Power Company manages this section of line under an existing right-of-way agreement with the BLM which is valid through the year 2018. The line transmits electricity generated at the Holter Lake Dam to East Helena and the Three Forks areas. The powerline extends south from the dam between the two WSAs for about four miles up Falls Gulch and down Towhead Gulch. See the WSAs Location Map.

The company's future management plan for this segment of powerline is to routinely maintain the existing facilities with no foreseeable changes regarding location, voltage capacity, or structure type. The use and maintenance needs of the company will be allowed to continue under the regulations of both the BLM and the Montana Major Facility Siting Act (Montana, DNRC 1985). This issue has been dropped from further consideration since no significant or varying effects on the management of the powerline, or on the wilderness resources for the WSAs alternatives, are anticipated.

Effects on Oil and Gas. The U.S. Geological Survey Report states that there is a low resource potential for oil and gas within the WSAs. The likelihood of exploration activity or commercial development is considered remote based on available geologic information (USDI, Geological Survey 1990). Both areas consist of steep, irregular terrain with limited opportunities for potential development sites. No oil and gas leases currently exist on Federal lands within the WSAs.

Approximately 4,327 acres or 40 percent of each WSA is underlain by private oil and gas rights. Any exploration activities associated with these private holdings could occur subject to BLM restrictions on access, season of use, etc. in order to mitigate against unnecessary and undue degradation. Based on the low potential for development and the physiographic character of the area, there is little likelihood of any future activity. See the Minerals Ownership Map for location of private mineral rights.

Management strategies governing oil and gas exploration and development on all federal lands would be similar. Under the No Wilderness alternative (ACEC Management) no surface occupancy would be allowed; under the All Wilderness alternative no leases would be authorized. Given the low probability of oil and gas activity in the two WSAs, no significant actions are anticipated from oil and gas exploration and development under either alternative.

This issue, despite the private ownership of oil and gas rights, was dropped from further consideration due to the areas' physiographic characteristics, remoteness, and low potential for oil and gas reserves.

Effects on Nonenergy Mineral Production. The U.S. Bureau of Mines open file report states that inferred reserves of 1.35 million tons of decorative slate exist in the Towhead Gulch area (USDI, Bureau of Mines 1988). The potential effects regarding this issue are evaluated by alternative for the Sleeping Giant WSA.

The report further states that the area holds an inferred subeconomic resource of 380,000 cubic yards of gravel containing an average of 0.0032 troy ounces of gold per cubic yard. The 1988 value of this mineral, based on a marketable gold price of \$410.00 an ounce, is \$1.31 per

cubic yard less recovery costs. This material occurs in small elevated gravel bars along the Missouri River. The resource is considered subeconomic and no development is projected.

Finally, the report identifies the presence of strata-bound copper-silver minerals in the Precambrian Spokane Formation located in the northwest corner of the surveyed area. These minerals are located immediately west of the Sheep Creek WSA. The grade is considered too low to be economically mined in the foreseeable future.

With the exception of the ten decorative slate claims in Towhead Gulch, mining activity in this area has been minimal. No other claims exist within the two WSAs.

Alternative management strategies vary considerably in that the two WSAs would remain open to mineral entry under the no wilderness alternative while federal mineral entry would be closed under the all wilderness alternative.

Approximately 2,437 private acres of all-mineral estate exist within the two WSAs. Entry to this private subsurface would be allowed under both alternatives subject to similar mitigating measures. See Table 1-1 and the Mineral Ownership Map.

Despite the varying alternative management strategies and the split-mineral estate, this issue (with the exception of decorative stone) has been dropped from further consideration due to the low likelihood of any future mineral development.

Effects of Boundary Adjustments. The legal boundaries of the two WSAs were established through the inventory phase of the wilderness review process. See WSAs Location Map. This issue was dropped from further consideration since there are no adjoining land acquisitions pending or currently anticipated that would enhance the wilderness characteristics or manageability of the two WSAs. Conversely, there are no boundary reduction options that would significantly enhance wilderness management given the existing size, distribution of private minerals, and boundary characteristics of the WSAs.

Effects on Forestry Resources. This issue was eliminated since the two WSAs would be closed to timber harvest under both the all wilderness and no wilderness alternatives. The areas' low quality timber and steep, inaccessible terrain prohibit opportunities for commercial harvesting.

Effects on Cultural and Historic Values. There are no known significant cultural resource sites in the WSAs. Predictive landform models based on the Butte District Class I Inventory (USDI, BLM 1984) suggest that the Sleeping Giant WSA may contain two to four significant prehistoric sites and that Sheep Creek may contain one to two such properties should inventories be completed. Use of some management tech-

niques to protect and preserve cultural resources may be restricted if they interfere with the wilderness character of the area. However, alternative techniques will, in most cases, be adequate to stabilize deteriorating sites and structures. Scientific use of the sites may be allowed as long as the wilderness character is retained.

Although there is a low probability that cultural resources could be impacted by an inability to use a particular stabilization or protection technique within a designated wilderness, BLM's ability to actively manage cultural resources differs little from that on multiple-use lands.

Standard operating procedures and mitigating measures that apply to both alternatives ensure that no significant impacts will occur. All proposed ground-disturbing projects will be cleared through surveys and investigation efforts in advance. Therefore, the impacts on cultural resources resulting from various management alternatives require no further analysis.

Effects on Motorized Vehicle Use. Motorized vehicle use is nonexistent given the areas' absence of vehicle ways and trails, limited access and physiographic barriers (steep terrain and dense vegetation). This issue was dropped from further consideration since the present use of motorized vehicles is nonexistent and physiographic barriers will preclude any future uses within the two WSAs. Other nonrecreational uses of motorized vehicles would be restricted to special authorized purposes that are identical under both alternatives.

Effects on Recreation Activities and Visitation. The major recreational activities in the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek wilderness study areas are camping, big-game hunting, hiking and wildlife observation. Recreation use associated with these activities is estimated at about 4,000 visitor days per year, mainly during the summer and fall. The use of mountain bikes would not be allowed under either alternative.

This issue has been dropped from further consideration since the current primitive forms of recreation and use levels are not anticipated to change significantly by either the selection of the No Wilderness alternative (continuation of ACEC management) or the All Wilderness alternative. Although wilderness designation might stimulate an initial increase in use, long-term visitation would return to levels similar to that anticipated under ACEC management given the local and regional demand trends.

Effects on Water Quality. This issue was not analyzed since no water quality-related projects are foreseeable and no impacts to the resource are expected regardless of the alternative. Water quality management would be identical under both alternatives.

Effects on Fish and Wildlife. The WSAs provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species that include elk, bighorn

sheep, mountain goats, mule deer, black bear, furbearers, osprey, golden eagles, cutthroat and brook trout, and waterfowl, and the threatened and endangered species of bald eagles and peregrine falcons. No wildlife projects are existing or planned, and no foreseeable actions under either alternative would significantly impact wildlife habitat. This issue has been dropped from further consideration since management strategies under both alternatives are similar. Fish and wildlife are considered supplemental features for both WSAs and are further addressed under wilderness values.

Effects on Threatened & Endangered Plants. This issue was dropped since no such species are known to exist in the two WSAs.

Effects on the Local Economy. This issue was dropped since the difference in economic consequences between the alternatives would be insignificant.

Alternatives Dropped from Further Analysis

Consolidation of Both WSAs as One Study Area. This alternative was considered given the proximity of the two WSAs. It was dropped from further consideration because of two factors:

- The existence of the powerline right-of-way and associated maintenance road dividing the two WSAs.
- The fact that the Sheep Creek review is being conducted under Section 202 of FLPMA while Sleeping Giant is being reviewed under Section 603 of FLPMA.

Designation of both WSAs as a National Conservation Area. This alternative, which would legislatively ensure long-term management of the two study areas similar to that prescribed by the existing ACEC management plan, would result in impacts essentially identical to the No Wilderness alternative. The issue was dropped for it was determined to be outside the scope of this wilderness study.

Scoping Criteria Specific to the Sleeping Giant WSA

Issues to be Further Analyzed

Wilderness Values. How will the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, and supplemental features be affected if the area is not designated wilderness?

Decorative Stone Mining. The WSA contains slate deposits of commercial value for decorative stone and ten such

mining claims exist. How will opportunities for exploration and excavation of this resource be affected under wilderness as compared with nonwilderness?

Livestock Grazing. How will the management activities and production levels be affected under the two alternatives?

Issues Dropped from Further Consideration

Shoreline Erosion Abatement. The high-water mark of Holter Lake serves as the WSA boundary. Shoreline erosion control, whether initiated by BLM or the Montana Power Company, would be allowed under either alternative to prevent soil losses that threaten resource values. Mitigating measures governing these actions would be similar under both alternatives, in that overland motorized equipment will not be used to transport erosion-control material where more compatible means could be practically used. New roads would not be built and the preferred access route would be over water. Logs and other natural materials would be positioned at the base of slumping cliffs to break wave action and retain soils. This issue was dropped from further consideration since shoreline erosion-control efforts would be allowed and mitigated similarly under either alternative.

Alternatives to be Further Analyzed

All Wilderness. Designation of the entire WSA as wilderness.

No Wilderness. Designation of none of the WSA as wilderness and continued management as an ACEC.

Scoping Criteria Specific to Sheep Creek

Issues to be Further Analyzed

Wilderness Values. How will the wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined forms of recreation, and supplemental features be affected if the area is not designated wilderness?

Livestock Grazing. How will management activities and production levels be affected under the two alternatives?

Alternatives to be Further Analyzed

All Wilderness. Designation of the entire WSA as wilderness.

No Wilderness. Designation of none of the area as wilderness and continued management as an ACEC.



CHAPTER 2

DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

INTRODUCTION

Two alternatives are considered for each of the two WSAs in this document: All Wilderness (Proposed Action) and No Wilderness. Land acquisition, consolidation of both WSAs, partial wilderness, and other special designation alternatives were considered, but were dropped from detailed analysis during scoping. The rationale for eliminating these alternatives is presented in Chapter 1 under the issue subheading Effects of Boundary Adjustments, and the heading, Alternatives Dropped from Further Analysis. See Alternative Maps for each WSA.

For purposes of clarity and consistency in this wilderness EIS, the following points should be commonly understood. The proposed action and the agency's preferred alternative are the same. No wilderness, no action, and current management are synonymous in that the two WSAs would be managed under the guidance of the ACEC Management Plan and the Headwaters Final RMP. The proposed action for both WSAs is All Wilderness and will be presented first throughout this document.

ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT DESCRIPTIONS COMMON TO BOTH WSAs BY RESOURCE

The following alternative descriptions are common to both WSAs and are presented together because management guidelines governing the various resource activities would be similar for the two areas. Under the no wilderness alternative, management guidance is provided by the Sleeping Giant ACEC Plan (Appendix C); under the all wilderness alternative the two WSAs would be managed in accordance with the BLM Wilderness Management Policy document.

All Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)

Wilderness Management

This alternative recommends that both the 6,487-acre Sleeping Giant WSA and the 3,927-acre Sheep Creek WSA be designated wilderness and managed under the BLM's

Wilderness Management Policy. Legislative designation would ensure long-term protection of the areas' wilderness values.

Leasable Minerals Management (Oil and Gas)

All public subsurface lands within the two WSAs would be closed to leasing. Oil and gas exploration and development of private subsurface rights would be allowed at the owner's discretion subject to mitigating measures to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. Given the low potential for commercial reserves, the location of split-estate lands away from accessible roads, and the low interest levels displayed to date, no activity is anticipated.

Locatable Minerals Management

Federal subsurface lands would be closed to locatable mineral entry while the private subsurface lands would remain available at the owner's discretion. Exploration and development would be mitigated to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. With the exception of decorative stone, no other scenarios for this issue will be described due to the low development potential of the areas.

Decorative Stone Management. The 25 acres of commercial slate totalling 420,000 tons within the wilderness area would not be available for excavation unless these claims were found valid through a formal validity exam. Slate would be mined from the 56-acre area outside the WSA with inferred reserves of 930,000 tons. The life span of these reserves at a production rate of 100 tons per year would be about 9,300 years. Mining activities outside the WSA would be subject to the same management constraints as described under the no wilderness alternative.

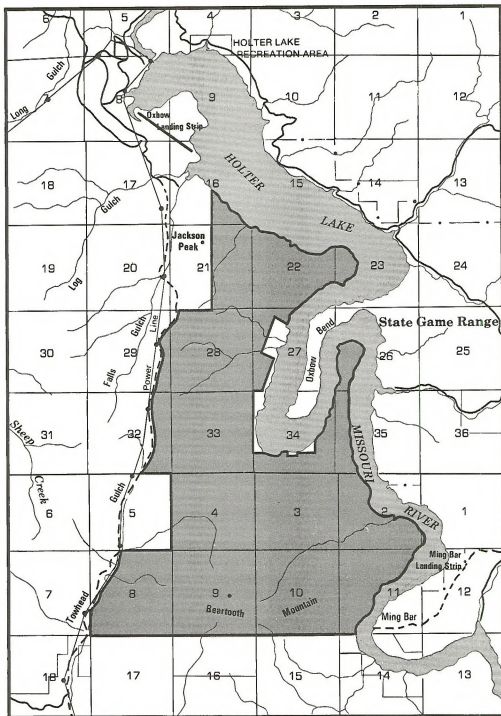
Salable Minerals Management

Federal subsurface estate would be closed to salable mineral entry, while private subsurface lands would be available for the excavation of mineral materials at the owner's discretion subject to unnecessary and undue degradation standards. Given the availability of other more accessible areas, no activity within the WSAs is foreseeable.

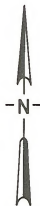
Timber Management

All forested lands will continue to be set aside from commercial timber harvest and management.

R. 3 W.



T. 14 N.



T. 13 N.

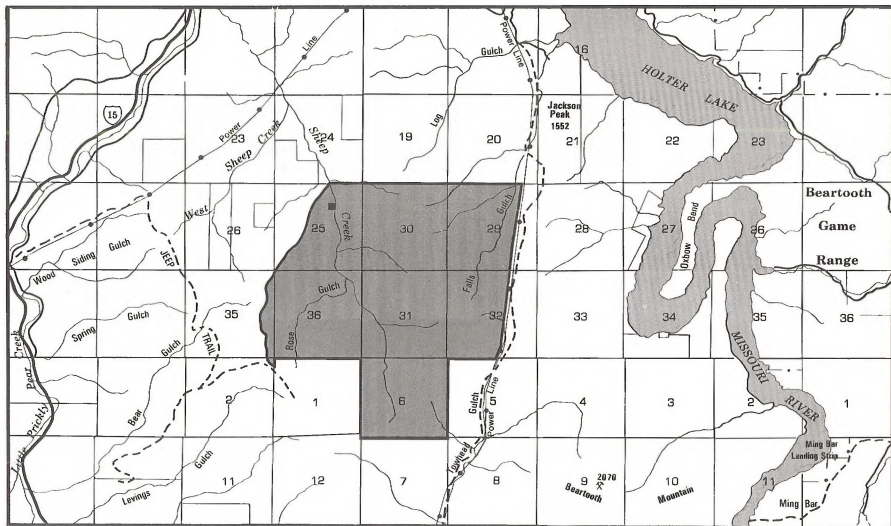
0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

- Sleeping Giant WSA Boundary
- All Wilderness (entire area recommended for wilderness designation)
- No Wilderness (no portion of the area recommended for wilderness designation)

**SLEEPING GIANT
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
MT-075-111A
ALTERNATIVES MAP**

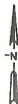
R. 4 W.

R. 3 W.



T. 14 N.

T. 13 N.



— Sheep Creek WSA Boundary

All Wilderness (entire area recommended for wilderness designation)

No Wilderness (no portion of the area recommended for wilderness designation)

0 1 2 3

Scale in miles

**SHEEP CREEK
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
MT-075-111B
ALTERNATIVES MAP**

Livestock Management

Livestock grazing in the Oxbow allotment encompassing both WSAs would continue at the current authorized level of 376 animal unit months (AUMs). The rest-rotation system for the three established pastures under the Oxbow Allotment Management Plan (AMP) would be implemented. Two pastures would be utilized during specified periods within the June 15 to September 15 grazing season and the third pasture would be rested each year.

Range improvements needed to accomplish the objectives of the approved AMP would be installed under mitigating measures since they are necessary to promote better cattle distribution and ultimately, enhance the natural vegetative conditions of the WSAs. Specific projects identified for the Sleeping Giant WSA include a three-quarter mile pasture fence, and four small enclosures totalling less than one mile at important camping areas along the shoreline. These small enclosure fences would eliminate cattle/visitor camping conflicts during the high-use summer months. In the Sheep Creek WSA, a spring development is planned for the Falls Gulch area to encourage grazing in the higher slopes out of the drainage bottom. Implementation of this project will necessitate a one-half mile, buried pipeline and a stockwatering tank.

These identified improvements were analyzed and mitigated in the environmental assessment prepared for the Oxbow AMP in 1986. The pipeline in Falls Gulch would be buried and the stockwatering tank painted and located to be as inconspicuous as possible. All disturbed soils would be revegetated with native grasses immediately following installation.

The pasture division fence would be constructed with three strands of wire and steel posts to enable wildlife passage, reduce material costs and minimize construction time. Selection of the fence location will utilize existing topographic and vegetative features to screen its visibility. Motorized equipment would only be authorized to transport needed materials to the site using the powerline maintenance road.

Finally, the four small enclosures along the shoreline would be built with three strands of wire and steel posts for the same reasons mentioned above. Physiographic features would be utilized to minimize visibility and all needed materials would be transported to the sites via water to eliminate the need for motorized equipment within the WSAs. Construction of these projects would occur during the low use season to reduce visitor impacts.

Routine maintenance and livestock supervision duties would be accomplished by foot or horseback. The use of motorized equipment within the WSAs would only be authorized to perform essential reconstruction activities and respond to supervision emergencies when the need exceeded the prac-

tical and reasonable limits of the nonmechanized capability.

Recreation Management

The primary forms of nonmotorized recreation (which include fishing, camping, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback travel and wildlife observation) would continue. The use of mountain bikes would not be allowed as they are incompatible with primitive forms of recreation and their use would be heavily restricted given the area's vegetative and topographic characteristics. Motorized vehicle uses are currently nonexistent within the WSAs. Future vehicle use would be closed to the general public and allowed only for special authorized purposes.

The construction of facilities and improvements (trails, signs, fences, fire rings, chemical pit toilets, etc.) would be provided as required to ensure the health and safety of people, enhance the visitor's natural experience, promote visitor dispersment, and preserve resource values. Although no recreation facilities are planned at this time, should the need arise in the future all work would be accomplished using the minimum tool policy, and a site-specific environmental assessment would be completed. Motorized vehicles and equipment will be used only where other alternatives prove impractical. All improvements will be designed and installed to be in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management objectives under the ACEC plan are to maintain satisfactory habitat conditions for the target species of mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, waterfowl, cold-water fisheries, ospreys, bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Although no habitat improvements are planned, future projects would be allowed to maintain populations of target species, to promote threatened, endangered or sensitive species, to enhance fishery habitat, or to control disease-related hazards. All projects would be mitigated to ensure harmony with the natural characteristics of the area. Use of motorized vehicles would be restricted to the minimum essential to complete the authorized project.

Lands Management

All BLM lands within the WSAs would be retained in public ownership. Priority acquisitions needed to enhance resource values, compatible use opportunities, visitor access, and areawide manageability would be conducted.

Applications for new utility corridors within the WSA would be denied. The existing powerline right-of-way separating the two WSAs would continue to be operated and maintained by the Montana Power Company. The planned maintenance needs of the company for managing this line would be authorized under the Montana Major

Facility Siting Act and BLM multiple-use guidelines. These needs include access road maintenance, pole replacements and electric line servicing.

Cultural and Historic Resource Management

All known archaeological and historical resources would be allowed to deteriorate naturally. Should any significant sites be discovered, appropriate actions would be allowed to stabilize, excavate, and restore such sites and to conduct intensive inventories. All disturbing activities would be fully reclaimed and the use of motorized equipment and vehicles would be limited to essential movements.

Noxious Weed Management

Control efforts would be conducted to curtail the establishment and spread of noxious weeds in the area. Applications and control methods would be regulated so that no serious adverse impacts occur. Motorized vehicles and equipment would be limited to essential movements.

There are no major weed infestations within the area at present. Occurrence is limited to a few isolated patches of spotted knapweed, and Canada thistle totalling less than one tenth of an acre. These noxious weeds are controlled each year prior to seed ripe with a Tordon solution using backpack sprayers. The use of this chemical has been approved through the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS.

Water and Soil Management

Watershed restoration and stabilization projects could be conducted where soils, vegetative cover and hydrologic conditions have deteriorated to a point where resource values both in and out of the area are seriously threatened. Vegetative planting would be authorized provided there is no reasonable expectation of natural regeneration and only native or naturalized species are used. The use of motorized vehicles would be limited to activities essential to the project. Improvements would be mitigated to blend with the natural features of the affected area.

The only foreseeable control effort involves the stabilization of about 2,000 feet of eroding shoreline bank located adjacent to the proposed boundary of the Sleeping Giant WSA. Coordination efforts are underway with the Montana Power Company and the state to address this mutual concern. Tentative plans are to anchor logs at the base of these slumping cliffs to break wave actions and retain soils. A pilot project is being considered for fiscal year 1992 along a portion of the shoreline south of the WSA boundary in T13N, R3W, Section 13. Future efforts along the remaining banks will depend upon the success of this effort.

The project sites along the shoreline will be accessed by water. Motorized equipment will not be used within the

area's boundary. Logs will be purchased and transported to the opposite shoreline by truck and then floated across the river to the project site by boat. These logs will then be positioned by hand along the water's edge immediately below the targeted cliffs using cable wire and anchor screws embedded in the bank. This project should not be affected by fluctuating water levels since the reservoir is maintained at a constant elevation year-round.

No Wilderness Alternative

ACEC Management

This alternative recommends that the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs not be designated wilderness. The two WSAs would be managed as an ACEC which was administratively endorsed through the Headwaters Final RMP in 1984. The management goals of the area are to preserve the natural resource values, the high scenic and visual qualities, the wide variety of primitive recreation opportunities, and the native wildlife species.

Leasable Minerals Management (Oil and Gas)

The two WSAs would be closed to surface occupancy on all BLM lands where the surface and subsurface are under federal management. Leases would be issued as required to avoid drainage of federal minerals. Oil and gas exploration and development of private mineral estate would be allowed at the owner's discretion subject to mitigating measures to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. No action is projected due to the low potential for commercial reserves, location of split-estate lands away from accessible roads and the low interest levels exhibited to date.

Locatable Minerals Management

Federal subsurface lands within the WSAs under ACEC management would be open to locatable mineral entry subject to unnecessary and undue degradation standards, a plan of operations, and an adequate bond to ensure reclamation performance. Private subsurface lands would be available for exploration and development at the owner's discretion, and associated activities would be governed only by unnecessary and undue degradation standards. Under these standards, motorized equipment would be limited to the minimum required. Access routes would be designed to protect sensitive resource values, and mining disturbances would be restored to a condition that is unobtrusive and as close to the original state as possible. With the exception of decorative stone no other scenarios for this issue will be described due to the low development potential of the areas.

Decorative Stone Management. Approximately 25 acres or 420,000 tons of mineable slate deposits located in the Towhead Gulch area of the Sleeping Giant WSA would be

open to exploration and excavation. Some 56 acres or 930,000 tons of comparable reserves located outside the WSA would also be available. The claimant plans to continue mining slate within these claims at a rate of about 100 tons per year. Given this information the following scenario is most likely to occur.

Since the reserves within the 56-acre area located outside the WSA are more accessible, are better consolidated, and have been mined in the past, expectations are that the claimant will direct at least 75 percent of his activity in this area. The remaining 25 percent or 25 tons per year will be excavated from within the Sleeping Giant WSA boundary. Given this rate of production about 500 tons of decorative slate would be mined over the next 20 years within the WSA. Surface disturbance associated with this activity over a 20-year period would impair about one-tenth acre.

Mining activities within the ACEC would be subject to an approved plan of operations, and an adequate bond for reclamation, as well as unnecessary and undue degradation standards. Motorized equipment would be limited to the minimum required and reclamation measures would necessitate the restoration of disturbed lands to a condition that is unobtrusive and as close to its original state as possible. Access to the claims would be provided via the Towhead Gulch powerline road.

Salable Minerals Management

Federal subsurface estate would be closed to salable mineral entry, while private subsurface lands would be available for the excavation of mineral materials at the owner's discretion subject to unnecessary and undue degradation standards. Given the availability of other more accessible areas, no activity within the WSAs is foreseeable.

Timber Management

All forested land will continue to be set aside from commercial timber harvest and management.

Livestock Management

Livestock grazing in the Oxbow allotment encompassing both WSAs would continue at the current authorized level of 376 animal unit months (AUMs). The rest-rotation system for the three established pastures under the Oxbow Allotment Management Plan (AMP) would be implemented. Two pastures would be utilized during specified periods within the June 15 to September 15 grazing season and the third pasture would be rested each year.

Range improvements needed to accomplish the objectives of the approved AMP would be installed under mitigating measures since they are necessary to promote better cattle distribution and ultimately, enhance the natural vegetative conditions of the WSAs. Specific projects identified for the

Sleeping Giant WSA include a three-quarter mile pasture fence, and four small exclosures totalling less than one mile at important camping areas along the shoreline. These small exclosure fences would eliminate cattle/visitor camping conflicts during the high-use summer months. In the Sheep Creek WSA, a spring development is planned for the Falls Gulch area to encourage grazing in the higher slopes out of the drainage bottom. Implementation of this project will necessitate a one-half mile, buried pipeline and a stockwatering tank.

These identified improvements were analyzed and mitigated in the environmental assessment prepared for the Oxbow AMP in 1986. The pipeline in Falls Gulch would be buried and the stockwatering tank painted and located to be as inconspicuous as possible. All disturbed soils would be revegetated with native grasses immediately following installation.

The pasture division fence would be constructed with three strands of wire and steel posts to enable wildlife passage, reduce material costs and minimize construction time. Selection of the fence location will utilize existing topographic and vegetative features to screen its visibility. Motorized equipment would only be authorized to transport needed materials to the site using the powerline maintenance road.

Finally, the four small exclosures along the shoreline would be built with three strands of wire and steel posts for the same reasons mentioned above. Physiographic features would be utilized to minimize visibility and all needed materials would be transported to the sites via water to eliminate the need for motorized equipment within the WSAs. Construction of these projects would occur during the low use season to reduce visitor impacts.

Routine maintenance and livestock supervision duties would be accomplished by foot or horseback. The use of motorized equipment within the WSAs would only be authorized to perform essential reconstruction activities and respond to supervision emergencies when the need exceeded the practical and reasonable limits of the nonmechanized capability.

Recreation Management

The primary forms of nonmotorized recreation (which include fishing, camping, big-game hunting, hiking, horseback travel and wildlife observation) would continue. The use of mountain bikes would not be allowed as they are incompatible with primitive forms of recreation and their use would be heavily restricted given the area's vegetative and topographic characteristics. Motorized vehicle uses are currently nonexistent within the WSAs. Future vehicle use would be closed to the general public and allowed only for special authorized purposes.

The construction of facilities and improvements (trails, signs, fences, fire rings, chemical pit toilets, etc.) would be provided as required to ensure the health and safety of people, enhance the visitor's natural experience, promote visitor dispersement, and preserve resource values. Although no recreation facilities are planned at this time, should the need arise in the future all work would be accomplished using the minimum tool policy, and a site-specific environmental assessment would be completed. Motorized vehicles and equipment will be used only where other alternatives prove impractical. All improvements will be designed and installed to be in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management objectives under the ACEC plan are to maintain satisfactory habitat conditions for the target species of mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, waterfowl, cold water fisheries, ospreys, bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Although no habitat improvements are planned, future projects would be allowed to maintain populations of target species, to promote threatened, endangered or sensitive species, to enhance fishery habitat, or to control disease-related hazards. All projects would be mitigated to ensure harmony with the natural characteristics of the area. Use of motorized vehicles would be restricted to the minimum essential to complete the authorized project.

Lands Management

All BLM lands within the ACEC would be retained in public ownership. Priority acquisitions needed to enhance resource values, compatible use opportunities, visitor access, and areawide manageability would be conducted.

Approval of new utility corridors would be avoided and allowed only after all other options have been exhausted. The existing powerline right-of-way separating the two WSAs would continue to be operated and maintained by the Montana Power Company. The planned maintenance needs of the company for managing this line would be authorized under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act and BLM multiple-use guidelines. These needs include access road maintenance, pole replacements and electric line servicing.

Cultural and Historic Resource Management

All known archaeological and historical resources would be allowed to deteriorate naturally. Should any significant sites be discovered, appropriate actions would be allowed to stabilize, excavate, and restore such sites and to conduct intensive inventories. All disturbing activities would be fully reclaimed and the use of motorized equipment and vehicles would be limited to essential movements.

Noxious Weed Management

Control efforts would be conducted to curtail the establishment and spread of noxious weeds in the area. Applications and control methods would be regulated so that no serious adverse impacts occur. Motorized vehicles and equipment would be limited to essential movements.

There are no major weed infestation within the area at present. Infestation is limited to a few isolated patches of spotted knapweed, and Canada thistle totalling less than one tenth of an acre. These noxious weeds are controlled each year prior to seed ripe with a Tordon solution using backpack sprayers. The use of this chemical has been approved through the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program EIS.

Water and Soil Management

Watershed restoration and stabilization projects could be conducted where soils, vegetative cover and hydrologic conditions have deteriorated to a point where resource values both in and out of the area are seriously threatened. Vegetative planting would be authorized provided there is no reasonable expectation of natural regeneration and only native or naturalized species are used. The use of motorized vehicles would be limited to activities essential to the project. Improvements would be mitigated to blend with the natural features of the affected area.

The only foreseeable control effort involves the stabilization of about 2,000 feet of eroding shoreline bank located adjacent to the proposed boundary of the Sleeping Giant WSA. Coordination efforts are underway with the Montana Power Company and the state to address this mutual concern. Tentative plans are to anchor logs at the base of these slumping cliffs to break wave actions and retain soils. A pilot project is being considered for fiscal year 1992 along a portion of the shoreline south of the WSA boundary in T13N, R3W, Section 13. Future efforts along the remaining banks will depend upon the success of this effort.

The project sites along the shoreline will be accessed by water. Motorized equipment will not be used within the area's boundary. Logs will be purchased and transported to the opposite shoreline by truck and then floated across the river to the project site by boat. These logs will then be positioned by hand along the water's edge immediately below the targeted cliffs using cable wire and anchor screws embedded in the bank. This project should not be affected by fluctuating water levels since the reservoir is maintained at a constant elevation year-round.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Tables 2-1 and 2-2 summarize the impacts of the alternatives for Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs.

TABLE 2-1

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOR SLEEPING GIANT WSA

<i>Issue</i>	<i>All Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)</i>	<i>No Wilderness Alternative</i>
Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would be permanently protected on entire area. Sights and sounds of offsite slate mining in Towhead Gulch and the new range fences would slightly degrade naturalness. Improvements in range condition and reduced camping conflicts would enhance wilderness characteristics over the long-term despite their noticeability in some immediate areas.	Slate mining disturbances of 1/10 of an acre would temporarily degrade naturalness and solitude values within an affected area of about 200 acres. Effects of the fences would be similar to the all wilderness alternative.
Decorative Stone Mining	Some 56 acres or 930,000 tons of commercial slate reserves outside the WSA would remain available for excavation. The remaining 25 acres or 420,000 tons of slate reserves estimated to be within the WSA would be available only if the claims were determined to be valid.	All 81 acres or 1,350,000 tons of commercial slate reserves would remain available for excavation.
Livestock Management	The 225 authorized AUMs would remain available. Routine maintenance/supervision responsibilities would continue to be conducted by foot or horseback. New fence improvements planned in AMP would be allowed under heavily mitigated measures.	No change.

TABLE 2-2

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOR SHEEP CREEK WSA

<i>Issue</i>	<i>All Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)</i>	<i>No Wilderness Alternative</i>
Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would be permanently protected for the entire area. Effects of the water pipeline and tank development would temporarily degrade solitude and natural values in the immediate area during construction. Improvements in vegetative conditions would enhance wilderness values over the long-term despite the noticeability of the development in the immediate area.	Impacts on wilderness values from activities planned under ACEC management would be minimal. Effects from the spring development would be the same as the all wilderness alternative.
Livestock Management	The 135 authorized AUMs of livestock grazing would remain available. Routine maintenance/supervision responsibilities would continue to be performed by foot or horseback. The water pipeline development planned in the AMP would be allowed and heavily mitigated.	No change.



CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the environmental resources specific to the issues analyzed in this document for each WSA. The Appendix section of this document presents additional information related to this chapter:

- Sleeping Giant ACEC Management Plan (Appendix C)
- Wilderness Inventories (Appendix D)
- Additional Wilderness Factors Considered (Appendix E)

ISSUE RELATED RESOURCES OF THE WSAs

Sleeping Giant WSA

General Description

The Sleeping Giant WSA encompasses 6,487 acres of public surface land with private surface inholdings.

The WSA is located in Lewis and Clark County adjacent to Holter Lake. Helena, the state capital of Montana, is approximately 30 miles south; while Great Falls is some 60 miles to the northeast. Public access to this area is available along Holter Lake or from the Interstate 15 frontage road to the BLM Wood Siding Gulch Road, which terminates west of the Sheep Creek WSA boundary.

The boundaries of the WSA are established by the Holter Lake high-water mark and private land to the north and east; by private and public land to the south; and by private land and the powerline right-of-way or its maintenance road to the west. The configuration of this area is irregular with north-south distances varying from two to five miles and east-west distances ranging from just over one mile to three miles. See the Sleeping Giant Status Map.

The Sleeping Giant WSA is characterized by steep, irregular topography with elevations ranging from 3,578 feet along the lake to 6,792 feet at the summit of Beartooth Mountain. The dominant topographic feature is the north-south trending mountain range associated with Beartooth Mountain. The east-west trending ridge forms the well-known landmark of

the Sleeping Giant. This figure is visible from Helena and is formed by the skyline profile of Beartooth Mountain and the lower, vertical rock outcroppings that were referred to as "bear teeth" by pioneers in the Helena valley. An earthquake in 1878 created landslides that altered the beartooth outcroppings and formed the giant's current facial features. See Sleeping Giant Topographic Map.

The lower elevations are composed of numerous steep and narrow valleys. These lands drain into the lake to the east into Towhead and Falls gulches to the west and Beartooth Creek to the south. There are no perennial streams in the WSA. The shoreline of the WSA extends about ten miles. Frontage lands vary from gentle, grassy slopes to rocky cliffs.

The climate of the area is typified by warm summers and cold winters. Most precipitation occurs during the spring and summer months as thundershowers. The average precipitation is 15 inches per year.

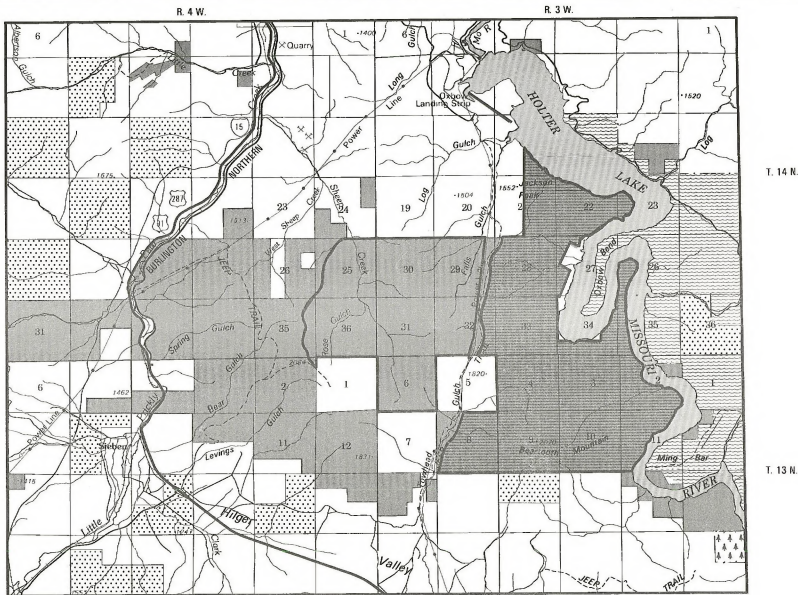
Approximately half of the area is covered by slow growing stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir and cottonwood trees. The density and composition vary with aspect and elevation. The nonforested portions are composed of sedimentary rock outcroppings, talus slopes and native grasslands.







Wilderness Values

Size. The Sleeping Giant WSA contains 6,487 surface acres of public lands with no private, state or other federal inholdings. Subsurface minerals however are in split ownership. Three private individuals own all minerals within 1,967 acres or 30 percent of the WSA and oil and gas rights in an additional 640 acres or 10 percent of the WSA. The remaining mineral estate is in public ownership. See Mineral Ownership Map.

Naturalness. The area appears to be highly natural in character. Man-made features are minimal and essentially unnoticeable given their location and size. See Table 3-1 and the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Existing Impacts Map.

Proximity off-site impacts include the Montana Power Company (MPC) powerline and associated maintenance road along the west boundary of the WSA. There are passing motor boats, private summer homes, developed recreation areas, marinas and overnight lodging facilities along Holter Lake immediately north and east of this WSA.



- | | |
|---|--|
|  BLM |  State Game Range |
|  Private |  Forest Service |
|  State |  Sleeping Giant WSA (including Jackson Peak Add-on) |

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

**SLEEPING GIANT
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
MT-075-111A
STATUS MAP**

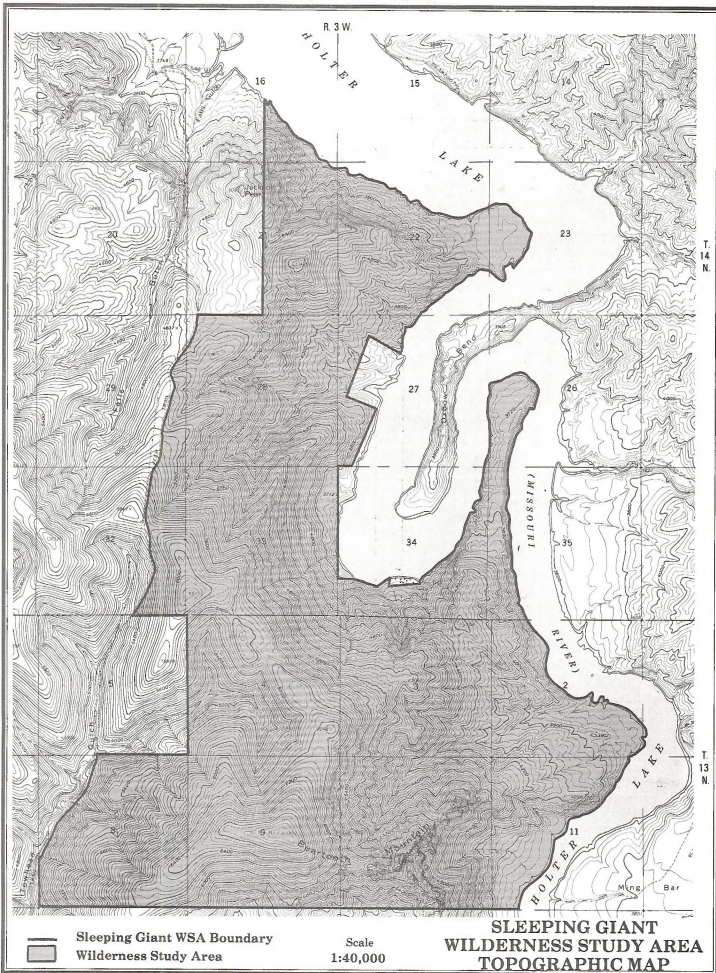


TABLE 3-1

SLEEPING GIANT WSA
EFFECTS ON NATURALNESS

Feature	Legal Location	Length/ Acre	Overall Impact	Remarks
Abandoned fence	T14N,R3W,S.22	1/2 mi	Minimal	Consists of fallen wood posts and barbed wire. Will be removed.
Old homestead	T13N,R3W,S.2	1 acre	Minimal	Includes an old cabin, storage shed, small barn, outhouse and weathered frame house.
Nonfunctional telephone line	T14N,R3W,S.21, 27 & 28	1/2 mi	Minimal	Suspended along trees. Down and cut in areas. Will be removed.
Prospect pits	T13N,R3W,S.10	10'x6'x4'/pit	Minimal	Four small depression areas.
Campsites	Along shoreline	20'x20'/site	Minimal	Twenty-two primitive sites consisting of stone fire-rings and level tent spots.

Solitude. The steep, irregular topography and forested slopes of the Sleeping Giant WSA provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Twenty drainages dissect the study area and elevations vary from 3,600 to 6,800 feet. Approximately half of the area is forested. The denser stands are located on the upper north and east facing slopes. These characteristics provide visitors numerous dispersed routes as well as excellent opportunities to isolate themselves from one another.

The area also offers some seven miles of ridgeline routes, which could be traveled on foot or horseback. Cross-country travel along the upper reaches is relatively unlimited with numerous vantage points. The distant views—of the Rocky Mountain Front to the north, and of the Missouri River and the Big Belt Mountains (especially the Beartooth Game Range and the Gates-of-the-Mountains Wilderness area) are spectacular, despite the sights and sounds of nearby developments and boats along the lake.

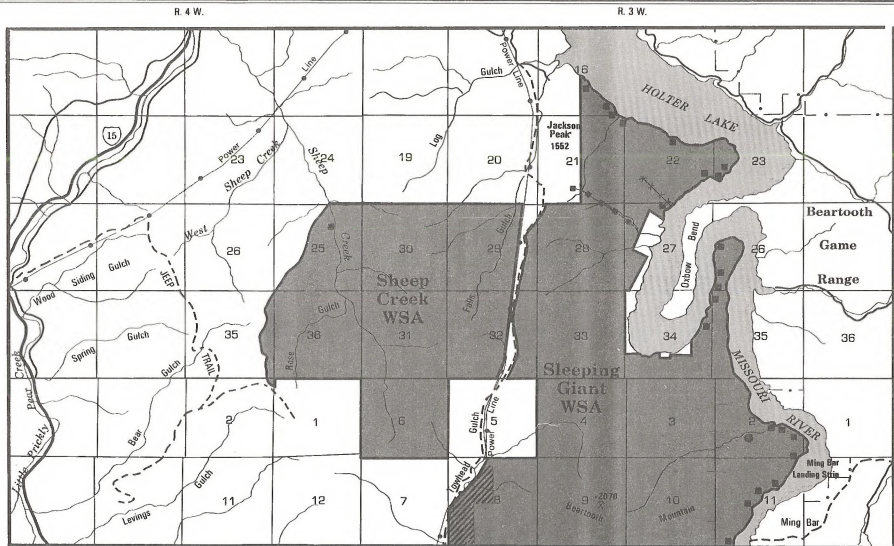
Overall, the WSA's natural, topographic, vegetative and scenic qualities combine to provide visitors with a powerful sense of being alone in nature.

Primitive Recreation. The diverse physical characteristics of the WSA provide many opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. These opportunities range from winter snowshoeing to summer swimming. Other quality activities include hunting, fishing, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, horse travel, nature study and photography. In addition, the shoreline offers river recreationists many undeveloped and dispersed sites for picnicking and camping. Although there are no exceptional recreational activities that stand out above those of the surrounding area,

the cumulative opportunities provided by the WSA for yearlong primitive recreation are considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values. The Sleeping Giant WSA, although small in size contains a large variety of resources that are of scientific, educational, historic and geologic importance.

- The Sleeping Giant formation is a well-known landmark and is readily visible from the state's capital city.
- The Lewis and Clark expedition passed through this area in 1805, on its westward trek across the continent. As a consequence, a portion of the WSA is part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.
- The remaining structures associated with an abandoned homestead typify the past lifestyle of earlier settlers.
- Spectacular panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain ranges are available to ridgeline travelers.
- There is a great diversity of important wildlife species. The biggest attraction is a thriving population of about 65 mountain goats that occupy the rock outcroppings and lower slopes of the Sleeping Giant geologic structure as well as other parts of the WSA. Other common species are elk, black bear, mule deer, osprey and golden eagles. A small herd of bighorn sheep can also be seen occasionally in the area. Potentially significant habitat is also available for bald eagles and peregrine falcons, both of which are on the federal threatened and endangered species list. Although no active nests are known to exist within the WSA, these birds nest in the



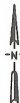
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| — WSA Boundary | —+— Nonfunctional Telephone Line |
| * * * Abandoned Fenceline | * Small Prospect Pits |
| ■ Primitive Campsite | ▨ Decorative Slate Claims |
| ● Homestead | |

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

SLEEPING GIANT AND SHEEP CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS EXISTING IMPACTS MAP

T. 14 N.

T. 13 N.



general vicinity and are expected to inhabit the WSA in the future.

Decorative Stone

Geologically, the area is within the disturbed belt of the Rocky Mountains in west-central Montana. The majority of the area was formed by the movement of the major Eldorado overthrust sheet during the late Cretaceous-early Tertiary time. This sheet consists primarily of rocks of the Proterozoic Belt Supergroup, slate of the Greyson Formation, and the overlying red siltstones and argillites of the Spokane Formation. It is in the sedimentary slate of the Greyson Formation where decorative stone is found.

The most decorative and marketable material is weathered rock that is readily split and shows oxide stains along bedding planes. Slate resources are large, both within and outside the study area. The most commercial and accessible deposits within the WSA exist in the lower Towhead Gulch area and are specific to the ten placer claims totaling some 190 acres in T13N, R3W, Sec. 8. About 50 percent of these claimed acres lie within the WSA. Edward Sperry located these decorative stone claims in September 1977, and he has mined about 1,200 tons of this slate to date. These quarries are currently inactive. Marketable uses for the product include primarily indoor facing for building lobbies, den walls, fireplaces, and stove pads. The stone also may be used for exterior walls and chimney facing. It is not suitable for floors or patios since the iron oxide stains will wear off when walked on.

The Bureau of Mines estimates that about 81 acres of the 10-claim area are mineable with inferred reserves of 1.35 million tons of decorative facing stone. Of this total, some 25 acres or 420,000 tons are within the WSA. The remaining 56 acres of commercial slate exist outside the WSA on BLM lands not under wilderness review.

The claimant plans to excavate about 100 tons of slate per year. To do this the stone must be ripped and loosened by a bulldozer, hand-split and loaded onto pallets, and then shipped to markets. The profit per ton for this slate is estimated at about \$70 based on a market price of \$200 and overall costs of \$130. Vehicle access to these claims is available via the powerline maintenance road up Towhead Gulch.

Oil and Gas

Geologically, the area is within the disturbed belt of the Rocky Mountains in west-central Montana. The majority of the area was formed by the movement of the major Eldorado overthrust sheet during the late Cretaceous-early Tertiary time. This sheet consists primarily of rocks of the Proterozoic Belt Supergroup, slate of the Greyson Formation, and the overlying red siltstones and argillites of the

Spokane Formation, which has been thrust eastward over younger sedimentary rocks.

Thermal properties and a limited total organic content of potential source rocks in the area combine to indicate the area has low resource potential for both oil and gas. This is further supported by the existence of unsuccessful exploration test holes both to the north and south of the area (USDI, Geological Survey 1990). Currently, there are no oil and gas leases issued for the federal minerals within the WSA.

Wildlife and Plants

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Sleeping Giant WSA contains suitable breeding habitat for bald eagles and peregrine falcons - both federally listed endangered species. There are no known active nests of either species within the WSA. However, portions of the WSA are within the breeding territory of an active bald eagle nest located across the river. Cliff habitat is extensively used by peregrine falcons which are currently being released on an annual basis on nearby State of Montana lands. The Missouri River corridor, including that of the Sleeping Giant WSA, is important habitat for bald eagles and peregrine falcons during the fall and spring migrations.

Long-billed curlew, a candidate threatened or endangered species (Category 2) nests along the Missouri River in the northern portion of the WSA.

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Natural Heritage Program indicates that there are no federally designated threatened, endangered or candidate plant species within the WSA.

Other Wildlife

The WSA contains crucial yearlong habitat for mule deer, elk, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion and bobcat. Key habitat areas include Beartooth Mountain for mountain goats and the Falls Gulch/Missouri River - Towhead Gulch Divide for mule deer and elk. Populations of all big game species appear to be in an upward trend. Bighorn sheep inhabited the area until the mid-1980's.

Waterfowl, especially Canada geese and common mergansers nest along the Holter Lake shoreline.

Blue grouse are the most common upland game bird. Diverse vegetation and topography provides habitat for a wide variety of nongame wildlife species.

The WSA provides nesting habitat for many raptor species. Most common are golden eagles, red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, kestrels, osprey and great horned owls.

Livestock Grazing

The Sleeping Giant WSA is entirely leased for grazing and provides two of the three pastures under the current Oxbow Allotment Management Plan (AMP). Based on range suitability conditions, the WSA provides about 225 AUMs annually or approximately 60 percent of the established grazing capacity for the BLM lands in this allotment. The AMP guidelines stipulate that the three pastures be grazed by cattle under a rest-rotation system within the established season of June 15 to September 15 each year.

Currently no range improvements exist within the WSA and therefore facility maintenance needs are nonexistent.

The Oxbow Allotment was placed in the improvement category during the last resource management plan of 1984. This means that grazing problems/conflicts were identified and that a management plan was needed to resolve resource concerns. As a result, the Oxbow AMP was written and approved for implementation in 1986. This plan acknowledged livestock use to be highly concentrated in some portions of the WSA due to a lack of available water in the higher elevations. The AMP documented that the poor distribution pattern was the primary cause for declining compositions of desirable native vegetation, accelerating soil erosion and conflicts with camping recreationists along the shoreline. In order to correct these primary problems the following AMP guidelines were identified for the Sleeping Giant area:

- Improve cattle distribution and reduce cattle/camping conflicts through the development of and positioning of mineral supplements.
- Improve riparian conditions in the lower drainage bottoms along the Missouri River.
- Maintain/increase percent composition of bluebunch wheatgrass and rough fescue immediately east of the powerline in Section 29.
- Improve range conditions of native grasses from poor to good along the shoreline benches in Section 23 by decreasing the composition of Sixweek fescue, cheatgrass and invading forbs.
- Maintain/increase composition of bluebunch wheatgrass near the Homestead along the lower slopes of Section 2.

Sheep Creek WSA

General Description

The Sheep Creek WSA consists of 3,967 acres of public surface land with no private surface inholdings. Subsurface minerals are in split ownership.

The WSA is located in Lewis and Clark County immediately west of the Sleeping Giant WSA and is separated from that WSA by the Towhead/Falls Gulch powerline and maintenance road. Helena, the state capital of Montana, is 30 miles south while Great Falls is some 60 miles to the northeast. Public access to this area is available from the east along the shoreline of the Sleeping Giant WSA and via the Wood Siding Gulch Road which originates from the Interstate 15 frontage road in Section 33, T14N, R4W. See the Sheep Creek Status Map.

The boundaries of the WSA are established by private land to the north and south, by non-WSA public lands to the west, and by the powerline right-of-way or its maintenance road to the east. The WSA's east-west distances average about three miles and its north-south distances range between two and three miles.

The Sheep Creek WSA is characterized by steep topography with elevations ranging from 4,080 feet along Sheep Creek to 6,600 feet at the highest peak in Section 35, T14N, R4W. Topographic ridges rim the area along its west, south and east boundaries. An interior north-south ridgeline roughly bisects the area. These higher areas drain primarily north into the interior drainage of Rose Gulch, Sheep Creek and Falls Gulch. Perennial streams and a vast array of riparian vegetation exist along the lower portions of these three drainages. See Sheep Creek Topographic Map.

Approximately half of the area is covered by slow-growing stands of Douglas fir, ponderosa, limber and lodgepole pine. The nonforested areas are composed of sedimentary rock ledges, talus slopes and native grasslands.

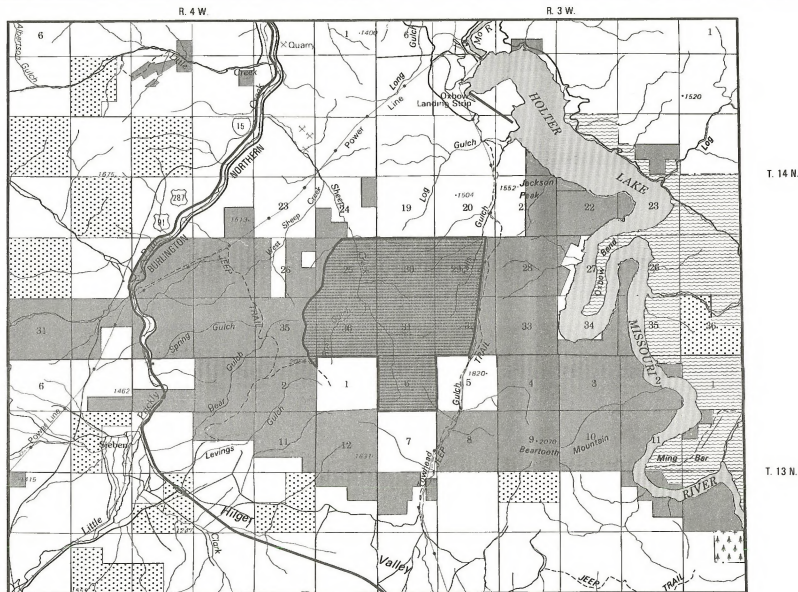
The climate of the area is typified by relatively warm summers and cold winters. Most precipitation occurs during the spring and summer months as thundershowers. The average precipitation is about 15 inches per year.

Wilderness Values

Size. The Sheep Creek WSA contains 3,967 surface acres of public land with no private, state or other federal inholdings. Subsurface minerals are in split ownership. Four private parties own all minerals in 470 acres or 12 percent of the WSA and oil and gas rights on an additional 1,250 acres or 31 percent of the WSA. The remaining mineral estate is in public trust administered by BLM. See Mineral Ownership Map.

Naturalness. The entire WSA is pristine. It displays no significant signs of past human activity. Only one primitive campsite was found within the WSA.

Solitude. Despite its small size, the area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its scattered patches of forest vegetation and its irregular topography with dissecting drainages. These screening qualities allow visitors

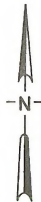


- | | |
|---|--|
|  BLM |  State Game Range |
|  Private |  Forest Service |
|  State |  Sheep Creek WSA |

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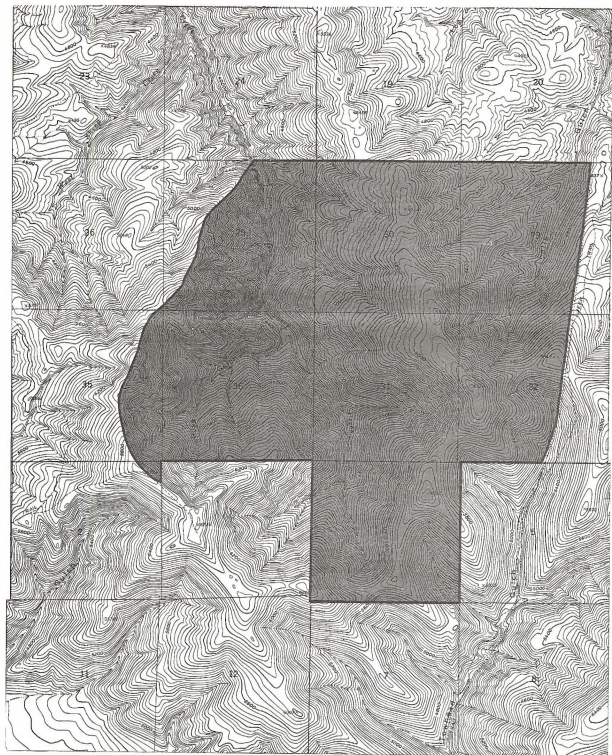
Scale in miles

**SHEEP CREEK
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
MT-075-111B
STATUS MAP**



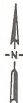
R. 4 W.

R. 3 W.



T. 14 N.

T. 13 N.



— Sheep Creek WSA Boundary
■ Wilderness Study Area

Scale
1:40,000

**SHEEP CREEK
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

easily to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The feeling of isolation is readily sensed within the dense vegetation of both Sheep Creek and Rose Gulch.

Mixtures of open and timbered areas exist along the upper slopes allowing visitors the opportunity to avoid one another and to appreciate the spectacular distant views. Along the relatively open ridges are vistas of Rocky Mountain ranges and valleys. Although Interstate 90, distant ranch buildings, and the Towhead/Falls Gulch powerline can be seen from several vantages, these intrusions do not substantially degrade the area's solitude.

Primitive Recreation. The WSA's irregular topography, varied vegetation, rock ledges, naturalness, excellent wildlife diversity, and overall ability to disperse visitor use provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, rock climbing, horseback riding, camping and nature study.

Since the surrounding areas offer similar quality opportunities, wilderness recreation within the WSA is not considered exceptional. However, the diversity of these activities is considered outstanding.

Supplemental Values. The supplemental values found in the Sheep Creek WSA are scenic vistas and diversity of wildlife species. Distant views include the Rocky Mountain Front, the vast prairies to the north and east, and the Big Belt Mountains of which the Beartooth Game Management Area and the Gates-of-the-Mountains Wilderness Area are a part. Wildlife species include mountain goats, bighorn sheep, black bear, elk, mule deer and golden eagles.

Oil and Gas

Geologically, the area is within the disturbed belt of the Rocky Mountains in west-central Montana. The majority of the area was formed by the movement of the major Eldorado overthrust sheet during the late Cretaceous-early Tertiary time. This sheet consists primarily of rocks of the Proterozoic Belt Supergroup, slate of the Greyson Formation, and the overlying red siltstones and argillites of the Spokane Formation, which has been thrust eastward over younger sedimentary rocks.

Thermal properties and a limited total organic content of potential source rocks in the area combine to indicate the area has low resource potential for both oil and gas. This is further supported by the existence of unsuccessful exploration test holes both to the north and south of the area. (R.G. Tysdal et al, 1990). Currently, there are no oil and gas leases issued for the federal minerals within the WSA.

Wildlife and Plants

Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no known threatened or endangered plant or animal species currently inhabiting the Sheep Creek WSA area. Bald eagles may occasionally use the area during the fall and spring migration periods.

Other Wildlife

The WSA contains crucial yearlong habitat for mule deer, elk, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion and bobcat. Key habitat areas include Sheep Creek, Rose Gulch and Sheep Creek/Falls Gulch Divide.

Bighorn Sheep inhabited the area until the mid-1980's.

Common raptors include golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and Cooper's hawks and kestrels.

Blue and ruffed grouse are found throughout the WSA.

Sheep Creek supports a cold water fishery with rainbow trout the dominant species.

Livestock Grazing

The Sheep Creek WSA is entirely leased for cattle grazing and provides most of the Falls Gulch pasture under the current Oxbow AMP. Based on range suitability, the WSA provides about 135 AUMs annually or approximately 36 percent of the established grazing capacity for the BLM lands in this allotment. AMP guidelines stipulate that the three pastures be grazed by cattle under a rest-rotation system for the specified period within the established annual season of June 15 to September 15.

Currently, no range improvements exist within the WSA and therefore facility maintenance needs are nonexistent.

The Oxbow Allotment was placed in the improvement category during the last resource management plan of 1984. This means that grazing problems/conflicts were identified and that a management plan was needed to resolve resource concerns. As a result, the Oxbow AMP was written and approved for implementation in 1986. This plan acknowledged livestock use to be highly concentrated in some portions of the WSA due to a lack of available water and topographic barriers. This poor distribution pattern was documented as the primary cause of area specific declines in the composition of native vegetation; increases in soil erosion and the concern about the availability of adequate forage for big-game animals. In order to correct these problems/concerns the following AMP objectives were identified within the WSA:

- Improve cattle distribution through the development of a water pipeline and the proper positioning of minimal supplements.
- Provide for yearlong forage for elk by limiting livestock utilization of key grass species to 30 percent each year along the upper slopes in Sections 30 and 31.
- Provide for key bighorn sheep forage by limiting livestock utilization to 30 percent within the drainage bottoms of Sheep Creek and Rose Gulch.
- Improve riparian conditions from poor to satisfactory in Sheep Creek and Falls Gulch.



CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter documents the significant effects of the alternative management actions presented in Chapter 2. The proposed action is presented first. Manageability concerns under the All Wilderness alternative for both WSAs are presented in Appendix E. Insignificant effects and effects that would not vary between alternatives are discussed in Chapter 1 under Issues That Do Not Require Detailed Analysis.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS BY WSA

Sleeping Giant WSA

All Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)

Effects on Wilderness Values. Impacts associated with slate excavation would not occur in the wilderness area without a positive validity exam. If excavation was allowed, the natural values possessed by the 25 acres would be permanently lost and the impacted site would be removed from the wilderness area through a boundary adjustment.

Offsite mining activity in the bottom of the Towhead Gulch west of the powerline and maintenance road would minimally degrade wilderness values in only the immediate area. Sights of the mining area would be unnoticeable to visitors in the WSA given its screened location in the bottom of the gulch. Impacts from the sounds of equipment would be noticeable over an area of about 200 acres during periods of operation.

The mitigated enclosure fences along the shoreline explained in Chapter 2 would be nonapparent to visitors unless directly encountered. Camping experiences and vegetative conditions within these fenced areas would be positively benefited as cattle would be excluded during the critical summer months. Although the pasture division fence near Jackson Peak would minimally degrade natural values over a noticeable area of about 21 acres, this improvement would not degrade the visitor's overall wilderness experience level. Sights and sounds associated with constructing these fences would minimally impair visitor opportunities for solitude and naturalness given the timing and short duration of the installation.

Despite the limited noticeability of these fence improvements, wilderness values would be enhanced overall due to the anticipated improvement in vegetative conditions and reduced grazing conflicts with shoreline visitors. Increases in native vegetation would enhance the area's natural qualities. The supplemental value of wildlife and scenery as well as the primitive recreation opportunities for big-game observation and fall hunting would be benefited in the long-term by associated increases on wildlife populations.

Effects on Decorative Stone Mining. The 25 acres or 420,000 tons of commercial slate reserves within the wilderness area's existing claims would only be available if determined to be valid. The effects of this action on claimant's long-term slate production are not considered significant since inferred reserves within the 56-acre area are estimated at 930,000 tons. At an excavation rate of 100 tons per year, this area would have a mining life span of 9,300 years. In addition, these reserves are high in quality and are easily accessible by the powerline maintenance road.

Effects on Livestock Grazing and Management. AUMs, season-of-use, class of livestock, improvements, maintenance and supervision would all continue subject to the mitigated guidance documented in Chapter 2. No significant impacts on livestock grazing and management are anticipated.

No Wilderness Alternative

Effects on Wilderness Values. It is anticipated that 100 tons of decorative slate will be mined annually from the 10 existing claims located in Towhead Gulch and that about 25 percent of this quarried slate will come from the WSA. The excavation of some 25 tons of decorative slate per year and the resultant disturbance of about one-tenth of an acre over a period of 20 years would have a minimal impact on the naturalness and solitude of the area. Given the small size of the disturbance, its location within the lower extremity slopes of the WSA, and its proximity to the existing powerline and access road, the area of impact would be limited to about 200 acres. Impacts on the supplemental value of wildlife are also minimal given the area's small size, location, existing road access, and low habitat importance. Effects on primitive forms of recreation would be unnoticeable. Impacts associated with the proposed fences would be identical to those identified under the all wilderness alternative.

Effects on Decorative Stone Mining. There will be no impacts. All 81 acres or 1,350,000 tons of inferred slate

reserves of commercial value would be open for excavation subject to mitigating measures. Flexibility to mine an estimated 100 tons of slate per year throughout the 10-claim area would be available pending BLM approval of a plan of operations and adequate bonding for reclamation purposes.

Effects on Livestock Grazing and Management. There will be no impacts. Livestock grazing will continue as mitigated under the ACEC management plan and the Oxbow AMP.

Sheep Creek WSA

All Wilderness Alternative (Proposed Action)

Effects on Wilderness Values. Designation would ensure long-term preservation of the area's wilderness values (naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and supplemental features.) No management actions are foreseen that would significantly impact these values.

The mitigated water development project as explained in Chapter 2 involving a one-half mile, buried pipeline and stock tank would minimally degrade the area's apparent naturalness since proximity users would notice the intrusions over some 30 acres. During construction the sights and sounds of mechanized equipment would temporarily degrade

opportunities for solitude for an affected area of about 320 acres. Overall, the benefits anticipated from this project in the form of improved cattle distribution and the associated enhancement of vegetation conditions will outweigh the apparent negative effects on naturalness.

Effects on Livestock Grazing and Management. Wilderness designation would not affect existing livestock grazing on the planned pipeline project.

No Wilderness Alternative

Effects on Wilderness Values. Selection of the No Wilderness alternative (ACEC Management) will not subject the wilderness values of the 3,967-acre area to any significant degradation. No impairing actions are foreseeable under ACEC management that differ from those projected under wilderness management. Despite the absence of long-term wilderness preservation, no impairment is anticipated to the area's wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation or supplemental values. Impacts from the water development project would be identical to those described under the all wilderness alternative.

Effects on Livestock Grazing and Management. Current management under the ACEC management plan and the Oxbow AMP would not be affected.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION

The Sleeping Giant WSA (6,112 acres) was established through an intensive wilderness inventory in October 1981 following the completion of the Sleeping Giant land exchange. The land exchange environmental assessment considered the following issues: climate, air quality, topography and geology, soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, prehistoric and historic features, aesthetics, recreation, social conditions, economic conditions, and land uses.

The existence of privately owned subsurface minerals and lands acquired after the passage of FLPMA (1976) were BLM concerns during the early stages of the wilderness review process. In 1982, two administrative decisions were released dictating that areas possessing these characteristics could not be reviewed for wilderness and therefore the Sleeping Giant WSA was dropped from further wilderness review.

As a result of these decisions, other alternative management options were analyzed in the Headwaters RMP in 1983. The current 11,609-acre Sleeping Giant ACEC was administratively designated through the Headwaters RMP record of decision in July 1984. The issues analyzed in the RMP/EIS were oil and gas leasing and development, forest management, land ownership adjustment, mineral exploration and development, motorcycle use, motorized vehicle access, utility corridors, and special designations.

The Sleeping Giant WSA was reinstated in 1985, due to administrative decision reversals regarding the foregoing land status issues. A second intensive wilderness inventory was conducted on all adjoining BLM lands which included parcels acquired after 1981. Through this wilderness inventory, the two existing WSAs were established in June 1988.

A federal Register Notice published on June 23, 1988, announced the beginning of the wilderness study for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs. Issue identification for this EIS continued into August 1988 when an issue scoping document was mailed to 170 organizations, businesses and individuals. This public mailing outlined a tentative list of issues and requested comments. Thirty-seven responses were received. The issue document and comment analysis can be found in Appendix B.

Numerous public involvement actions have occurred during this wilderness review process. See Table 5-1.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

BLM-managed lands throughout the state of Montana were exchanged for privately owned lands in the Sleeping Giant area. The consolidation of public lands in the Sleeping Giant area eventually led to wilderness consideration. In 1979, the Montana Board of Land Commissioners gave a finding of fact on the Sleeping Giant Exchange environmental assessment. In developing this finding of fact, the board held public hearings in Helena on May 23, 1979; in Great Falls on May 24, 1979; and in Terry on May 29, 1979. Taking part were six groups: the Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society, the R and M Recreation Company, the Prairie County Cooperative Grazing District, the Prairie County Conservation District, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The Land Board found that the exchange was of overall benefit to the people of Montana and the school trust.

In 1983, the Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners in a comment letter to the Headwaters RMP endorsed the Sleeping Giant land exchange program and designations to protect environmental values. The information contained in the Lewis and Clark County Comprehensive Plan of 1983 has been used to complete the EIS.

In 1984, a biological assessment of the Headwaters RMP was prepared. The Section 7 consultation #6-1-84-F-005 gave a biological opinion that implementation of the preferred alternative of the RMP is likely to have beneficial effects on bald eagles and peregrine falcons. The RMP established the Sleeping Giant ACEC.

The 1985 Management Plan for the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area (which lies just east of the Sleeping Giant ACEC) was prepared by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The wildlife biologists have released five peregrine falcons from a hack site near the Missouri River. They also monitor summer resident bald eagles but have not discovered any nests. Coordination of wildlife habitat management for these birds and big game is ongoing.

TABLE 5-1
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
June 1979	Public Comment Period	Comments taken on Sleeping Giant Land Exchange
September 1979	Federal Register Notice	Final initial inventory completed for Sleeping Giant
July 1981	Federal Register Notice	Beginning of intensive inventory for Sleeping Giant
August 1981	Public Meeting in Helena	Intensive inventory recommendations and request for comments
October 1981	Federal Register Notice	Final inventory decision to designate Sleeping Giant (6,112 acres) as a WSA and to conduct study through the Headwaters RMP
January 1983	Federal Register Notice	Sleeping Giant removed from wilderness study
June 1983	Public Hearing in Helena	Comments taken on Headwaters Draft RMP
July 1983	Public Comment Period	Comments taken on Headwaters Draft RMP
April 1984	Federal Register Notice	Notice of ACEC designation for Sleeping Giant
December 1987	Federal Register Notice	Proposed wilderness inventory decisions for Jackson Peak Add-on and Sheep Creek Unit
January 1988	Public Meetings in Helena and Great Falls	Explain wilderness inventory recommendations and request public comment
March 1988	Federal Register Notice	Final proposed decision to designate Sheep Creek and Jackson Peak Add-on as WSAs
March 1988	Meeting with Montana Power Company representatives	Intent to protest inventory decisions
June 1988	Federal Register Notice	Notice to begin wilderness study of the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs
July 1988	Feature article in Helena Independent Record	Present maps issues and wilderness study procedures for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs
August 1988	Public mailing of issue document	Request issue identification comments
February 1990	Federal Register Notice	Announced availability of the Draft EIS for Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs
February 1990	Public meeting of draft EIS	Request for review and comments
May 1990	End of 90-day comment period	Comments taken on draft EIS

The 1986 Helena Forest Plan established a management plan for the Gates-of-the-Mountains Wilderness Area southeast of the Sleeping Giant ACEC. The plan also recommended enlarging the wilderness area to include Forest Service lands in the adjoining Big Log Roadless Area. Coordination management of wilderness values for both areas is ongoing.

Under the powersite withdrawal for Holter Lake all federal actions affecting the shoreline must be coordinated with the holders of the Federal Power Commission license, the Montana Power Company.

DISTRIBUTION

The following federal, state, and local entities will receive a copy of the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study/EIS.

Federal Agencies

Army Corps of Engineers
Bonneville Power Association
Department of Agriculture
 Forest Service, Region 1
 Helena National Forest
 Soil Conservation Service
Department of Air Force
Department of Energy
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of Interior
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Mines
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Geological Survey
 Mineral Management Service
 National Park Service
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Congressional

Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee
Senator Conrad Burns
Senator Max Baucus

State Agencies

Governor, State of Montana
Montana Department of Agriculture

Montana Department of Commerce
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Montana Department of Livestock
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Montana Department of State Lands
Montana Environmental Quality Council
Montana State Library
Montana State Clearinghouse
Montana State University
University of Montana

Local Agencies

Lewis and Clark County Commissioners
Great Falls Public Library
Helena Planning Office
Lewis and Clark Library

Organizations

American Association of University Women
American Public Land Exchange
American Wilderness Alliance
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
League of Women Voters
Last Chance Audubon
Last Chance Back Country Horsemen
Montana Association of Counties
Montana Association of Grazing Districts
Montana Audubon Council
Montana Cattlemen Association
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Farmers Union
Montana Mining Association
Montana Outfitters and Guide Association
Montana Petroleum Association
Montana Public Lands Council
Montana Snowmobile Association
Montana Oil and Gas Commission
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Trail Bike Riders
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Association
Montana Woolgrowers Association
National Wildlife Federation
Nature Conservancy
Northern Plains Resource Council
Northwest Citizens for Wilderness
Sierra Club
Skyline Sportsmen Association
Trail Riders
Western Environmental Trade Association
Wilderness Society
Wildlands Resources Association

Businesses

Amoco Production Co.
Atlantic Richfield Co.
Boat Loft Inc.
Chevron USA Inc.
Conoco Inc.
D.A. Davidson & Co.
Great Falls Tribune
Montana Power Co.
Sieben Ranch

Others

Copies of this draft wilderness study and environmental impact statement will be sent to all individuals who responded to the issues brochure and to the media. Grazing lessees and other affected public land users will also receive a copy of the draft.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The draft Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in February, 1990. The document was mailed to the public in February 7, 1990 and a 90-day comment period was provided through May 9, 1990. A news release was released to the local newspapers on February 9, 1990 and a Federal Register Notice was published on February 8, 1990 announcing the availability of the draft EIS and the associated public involvement opportunities. A public hearing was held on March 27, 1990 in Helena, Montana and no testimonies were presented.

Approximately 200 copies of the draft EIS were distributed to government agencies, businesses, organizations, public land users and interested individuals. A total of 87 written responses were received. Table 5-2 lists those who commented and their affiliation. The letter number can be used to identify each individual letter which is reprinted in Table 5-5 of this chapter.

TABLE 5-2

DRAFT EIS COMMENTERS

<i>Letter No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>From/Representing</i>
Federal Agencies		
1.	John F. Wardell	Environmental Protection Agency
State Agencies		
2.	K.L. Cool	MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Businesses

- Lisa Mercier
- Bob Jordan
- D. M. Sprague
- Roy Rasmussen

Organizations

- Cedron Jones
 - Sandy McIntyre
 - Clifton Merritt
- Montana Wilderness Assoc.
The Wilderness Society
American Wildlands

Individuals

- Tom Kilmer
 - Greg Wheeler
 - M.C. Young
 - David K. Wilson Jr.
 - Cary B. Lund
 - Patricia Lindsey MD
 - Jeff Juel
 - Gail & John Richardson
 - Suzanne Thweatt
 - Joan & Tom Eggart
 - Harold Lanqenbach
 - Mary Henry
 - Kenneth Platt
 - Carley McCaulay
 - Ray Jergeson
 - George & Rhonda Ostertag
 - Michael & Elizabeth Best
 - Gordon Thompson
 - M. Jane Seymour
 - Naomi Smith
 - Jeffery S. Gardiner
 - Charles D. Jennings, MD
 - Sara Touburan
 - Bill Summers
 - Noel & Irene Rosetta
 - Phyllis Barron
 - Sue Jackson
 - Unknown
 - Philip Heikinen
 - Fritz Behr
 - Tom Holmes
 - Lori Thackeray
 - George Schunk
 - Doug & Jan Craig
 - J. Metcalf
 - John R. Swanson
 - Zack Wheeler
 - May Lindsey
 - Glen T. Childs
 - Ana Haire
 - Dan Sullivan
 - Joyce Beckes
 - Harry Wilson
 - Angela Behr
 - Pete & Maureen Strazdas
 - David Rusoff
 - Matthew Wilson
 - Stephan Wallace
- Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
E. Glacier Park, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Great Falls, MT
Great Falls, MT
Salem, OR
Great Falls, MT
Clancy, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Great Falls, MT
Great Falls, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Augusta, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Havre, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Minneapolis, MI
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Bremerton, WA
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Helena, MT
Cut Bank, MT
Helena, MT

58.	Mary Ann Fichrer	Helena, MT
59.	William & Marsha Davis	Helena, MT
60.	Christian Prazza	Helena, MT
61.	Sandra Hale	Clancy, MT
62.	Ann Gidel	Helena, MT
63.	Linda Robbins	Helena, MT
64.	Tim & Beth Baker	Helena, MT
65.	Connie Carlson	Helena, MT
66.	Pat Helvey	Helena, MT
67.	Bob Cooney	Helena, MT
68.	Bob Decker	Helena, MT
69.	Paul D. Johnson	Helena, MT
70.	Harley Harris	Helena, MT
71.	Donna Hodges	Helena, MT
72.	Dianne McKnight	Helena, MT
73.	Darlene Hall	Helena, MT
74.	Hugh Zackheim	Helena, MT
75.	Paul Richards	Boulder, MT
76.	Bob Fitzgerald	Helena, MT
77.	Mark Shabley & Lynde Saul	Helena, MT
78.	Mark Kelly	Helena, MT
79.	Vaughn Kauffe	Helena, MT
80.	L. Stiffler	Helena, MT
81.	Darcey & Colton Stiffler	Helena, MT
82.	Karry Hauck	Helena, MT
83.	Henry & Nancy Begler	Helena, MT
84.	Donna H. Metcalf	Helena, MT
85.	Garold Martin	Helena, MT
86.	Mrs. Terry Wheeling	Helena, MT
87.	Wayne Chamberlin MD	Helena, MT

TABLE 5-3

PUBLIC ISSUES

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Number of Commenters</i>
Wilderness Designation	87
Minerals	13
Wildlife	8
Motorized Vehicles	4
Timber	3
Boundary Adjustments/Acquisitions	3
Utility Corridors/Powerline	3
Area Access	2

Wilderness Designation

Eighty-four of the 87 total comments received suggested wilderness designation for both WSAs. The majority of the comments emphasized the following viewpoints.

- Outstanding wilderness characteristics
- Absence of major resource conflicts
- Inability of ACEC designation to ensure long-term preservation
- Wilderness best compliments surrounding land designations
- Proximity to Helena and Great Falls residents
- Exceptional mountain goat habitat
- Importance of keeping areas in a wild and undeveloped state
- Quality hiking opportunities
- Sleeping Giant profile regarded as a legendary landmark.

COMMENT ANALYSIS OF LETTERS

Commenter Profile

Ninety-five percent of the letters received on the draft EIS were from people who live in Montana and 87 percent of these in-state commenters were local residents from the Helena and Great Falls area. Most respondents were highly familiar with the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs and specifically stated that they had personally visited the area. Of the 87 comments received, 78 were from individuals, three from organizations, four from businesses, and two were from federal and state agencies.

Issues Addressed

The issues presented by the public during the 90-day comment period are listed in Table 5-3 in order of the number of commenters who raised the issue. Wilderness designation, minerals and wildlife were the issues of greatest concern. An issue that was discussed by less than five commenters is not analyzed in this section.

Minerals

Most commenters favorably mentioned that wilderness designation would restrict mineral exploration and possible development much more than the continued management of the area as an ACEC. It was pointed out by many respondents that minerals would be withdrawn and that oil and gas leasing would not be allowed on federal lands. In addition, most believed that protective measures governing mineral activities on the private mineral estate would be potentially greater if managed as wilderness. Several suggested modifying the existing Sleeping Giant WSA boundary to accommodate for the continued excavation of slate in the Towhead Gulch area.

Most commenters viewed the mineral values to be subordinate to the wilderness characteristics of the WSAs and stressed the need for protection. Numerous respondents also stated that the BLM should acquire the split-estate lands regardless of the final alternative decision.

Wildlife

All comments addressing this issue pointed out the importance of protecting the diverse wildlife habitat in these WSAs. Many stated that they enjoyed viewing the mountain goats, elk, bear, mule deer, osprey, and golden eagles while hiking in the areas. The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks explained the importance of the area for long-term elk security and for the potential reintroduction of bighorn sheep.

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comment letters received on the draft EIS are reprinted at the end of this chapter in the same numerical order as displayed in Table 5-2. The transcript of the public hearing conducted on the draft EIS in Helena is not enclosed in the appendix since there were no testimonies presented.

All comments were reviewed and considered prior to the Bureau's final recommendation. BLM responses were prepared for comments that:

- Relate to inadequacies or inaccuracies in the analysis or methodologies used
- Identify new significant impacts
- Recommend reasonable new alternatives
- Involve disagreements on interpretations of significance
- Indicate significant misconceptions or misinterpretations of BLM programs and policies

Comments requiring a response based on the above criteria were assigned a comment number. These comments and the Bureau's responses are shown in Table 5-4.

Except for editing of misspelled words or obvious errors in punctuation, the context of the comment has been printed verbatim as originally received. In situations where there were similar comments necessitating repetitive replies, only the first comment is identified and responded to.

TABLE 5-4

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comment 1 (US EPA, Letter 1)

While continued management as ACECs may favor preservation of the wilderness characteristics of the areas, some mining activity will likely occur. The potential also exists

for oil and gas development. The environmental significance of these activities is not detailed in this document. The extent of potential road construction or related impacts to air, water quality, and other resources from these activities are not discussed. Potential cumulative impacts from foreseeable off-site development on area resources are not discussed in the draft EIS. The document alludes to mitigation plans in the case of these developments. The draft EIS does not provide any insight into the nature of this mitigation, its reliability or enforceability. It is unclear to what extent these mitigation plans will be subject to public review subsequent to the record of decision for this action.

Response 1

Exploration and development activities associated with locatable minerals and oil and gas are not foreseeable given the low resource potential and restrictive physiographic characteristics of the WSAs. BLM policy stipulates that scenarios and environmental consequences need only be analyzed when impacting activities are probable.

The only mineral activity anticipated in the future is the excavation of the decorative stone in the lower portion of Towhead Gulch. See Impacts Map. A development scenario and an impacts analysis are presented in Chapter 2 and 4 for this issue.

Under the all wilderness alternative, a validity exam would be conducted on those decorative slate claims where operation activities were proposed within the wilderness boundary. Given the abundant slate deposits outside the Sleeping Giant WSA boundary and the lack of any grandfathered rights, all future mining activities would most likely occur northwest of the powerline in T13N, R3W, Section 8. Actions in this nonwilderness BLM-tract would be subject to an approved plan of operations, a public environmental analysis process, adequate bonding and the unnecessary and undue degradation stipulations.

Slate mining activities under the no wilderness alternative would be allowed throughout the established 10 claims. Authorization procedures and protective measures would be similar to those described above.

Under either alternative compliance monitoring would be periodically performed by BLM and the environmental analysis for the plan of operations would be subject to public review.

Comment 2 (US EPA, Letter 1)

The discussion of mitigation under the current livestock grazing program indicates that some problems have not been satisfactorily resolved. Since the referenced Oxbow AMP is not readily available, it would be helpful to briefly outline the key issues and any pertinent course of action planned by the Bureau in this EIS.

Response 2

The issue of livestock grazing is fully analyzed in this final EIS document. Chapter 3 presents a description of the existing resource and summarizes the Oxbow AMP while Chapters 2 and 4 analyze the management actions, mitigating measures and environmental consequences by alternative.

Comment 3 (MT FW&P, Letter 2)

Should our recommendation for your "All Wilderness" alternative be selected, we suggest the boundary be adjusted to accommodate the existing commercial decorative slate mining operation.

Response 3

A boundary adjustment to exclude the commercial deposits of decorative slate located within the Sleeping Giant WSA was considered and deemed unnecessary since the claimant has no grandfathered rights. Prior to any mining within the wilderness a validity exam would be conducted. In the unlikely event that the commercial reserves were mined the wilderness boundary would be adjusted accordingly. Furthermore, comparable deposits on 56 acres outside the WSA boundary would remain available for excavation. Given a future production scenario of 100 tons per year, this off-site area would have a life of about 2,000 years.

Comment 4 (MT FW&P, Letter 2)

An effort should be made to acquire the private mineral estate under any designation.

Response 4

In order to ensure the long term preservation of these highly natural areas, the Butte District office of the BLM has requested Land and Water Conservation funds to acquire the private mineral estate regardless of the alternative. See discussion in Manageability in Appendix E.

Comment 5 (Chevron, Letter 3)

The justification for not designating these areas as wilderness is sound: high to moderate oil and gas potential; the entire area is leased; and the existence of a split mineral estate.

Response 5

The potential for reserves of oil and gas within the WSAs is considered low given the geological information available. No leases currently exist and the presence of split mineral estate is not significant given the low mineral development potential.

Comment 6 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

Leasing is permitted in the ACEC and would not be with

wilderness designation. "No surface occupancy" leases might not protect surface resources: they are "negotiable", and any lease conveys rights that might legally preclude denying occupancy. The fact that the likelihood of activity is considered low is not nearly as significant for the long-term protection of wilderness values as the fact that the potential for oil & gas is considered moderate. I suspect that regulation of exploration & development of private minerals under federal surface could be more stringent and more enforceable, hence more protective, with wilderness designation than under ACEC management.

Response 6

Although oil and gas leases would be issued under ACEC management no impacting activities would be allowed to occur when the surface and subsurface are in federal ownership. Leases issued under the no surface occupancy stipulation would not be negotiated. In fact, if surface occupancy proved to be the only feasible means of development, the lease would be denied. Given the low probability of commercial reserves coupled with the high economic cost of access due to the physiographic characteristics of the study areas no oil and gas activity is foreseeable.

If the unlikely situation arose where exploration activity was desired on private mineral estate, the BLM could not deny reasonable access under either alternative. Mitigating measures would be similar regarding reclamation requirements, route selection and season of use. Under the wilderness alternative, the probability of obtaining appropriated funds for split-estate acquisition would be higher given its national significance.

Comment 7 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

I urge you to analyze an alternative that incorporates the addition (to the WSAs) of those lands identified for acquisition in the ACEC management plan. I feel that acquisition of those lands would significantly improve both the wilderness values and the manageability of the two WSAs (but particularly the Sheep Creek WSA). It seems arbitrary and inconsistent to not consider this boundary adjustment (because nothing is currently happening), given these areas have been identified for acquisition.

Response 7

Although proximity lands have been prioritized for acquisition by BLM, there are no purchase agreements in place nor any anticipated in the foreseeable future. BLM directives state that wilderness studies should only address existing BLM lands and significant issues pertaining to private inholdings within WSA boundaries. Suitability analysis of adjacent private lands should occur post acquisition through the Bureau's next resource management plan scheduled for that resource area.

Policy states that acquired adjacent lands be examined under the appropriate sections of FLPMA utilizing the wilderness review process. Lands would first be inventoried for wilderness characteristics and if suitable, recommended for further study as wilderness study areas. These lands would then be protected under the Bureau's interim management policy guidelines and a wilderness suitability study would be conducted as part of the next resource management plan.

Comment 8 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

Administrative uses (timber cutting, motorized equipment) would be more restricted with wilderness designation than under ACEC management, and the impacts of such uses would thus be different for the two alternatives.

Response 8

Given the resource protection emphasis of the ACEC management plan these activities would be restricted in a manner similar to the all wilderness alternative. Timber harvesting and the public use of motorized equipment would not be allowed within the WSAs.

Comment 9 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

For utility corridors, the ACEC standard is avoidance whereas the wilderness standard is exclusion, again with different potential impacts on wilderness values.

Response 9

Although the ACEC management guidelines do not exclude consideration of future utility corridors, the likelihood of BLM authorizing such a request is extremely remote. This is due to the existence of proximity utility lines, the topographic limitations of the area, the high mitigating costs that would be required and the availability of better suited off-site routes.

Comment 10 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

The DEIS presents no rationale for selecting the "no wilderness alternative" as the proposed action.

Response 10

It is department policy that no statements should be included in an EIS that bias the reviewer or the ultimate decision. The objective of an EIS is to point out the environmental, economic and social consequences of selecting one alternative (proposed action) as opposed to others through a comparative analysis process. The reason that the issues and their comparative differences are minimal in this EIS is due to the similarities between alternative management strategies.

Comment 11 (MT Wilderness Assoc., Letter 7)

The assertion that ACEC management will be as effective as wilderness designation in preserving wilderness values is wrong. The ACEC was not established to protect wilderness values. The ACEC management plan does not identify preservation of wilderness values as an objective.

Response 11

The objective of the ACEC management plan is to protect the natural conditions of the area. Although wilderness characteristics are not specifically addressed they were certainly implied and mitigated for. See the ACEC plan in Appendix C.

A major difference between the alternatives is that ACEC designation is administratively decided and re-evaluated through periodic resource management plans while wilderness designation is legislatively endorsed and ensures a long-term commitment.

Comment 12 (Wilderness Society, Letter 8)

The final EIS should more fully analyze the effects of ACEC management on the areas' wilderness values, particularly with regards to oil and gas leasing, timber cutting, and motorized vehicle use. These impacts were not adequately addressed in the DEIS.

Response 12

The anticipated effects of continued ACEC management under the no wilderness alternative on wilderness values would not be significant given the protective emphasis of the plan. Potential impacts from mineral developments are unlikely given the area's low potential, no commercial timber harvesting would be allowed, oil and gas leasing would prohibit surface occupancy thus any on-the-ground disturbances and the use of motorized vehicles in the areas would not be allowed. Again, the major difference between the alternatives is that ACEC management is administratively decided and re-evaluated through periodic resource management plans while wilderness designation is legislatively designated and ensures a long-term commitment.

Comment 13 (Summers, Letter 33)

The report, as I understand it, contends that the present management of Sleeping Giant as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern is adequate. Such designation, however, makes the Sleeping Giant area available for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development. This is unacceptable.

Response 13

The Bureau's proposed action in this final EIS recommends wilderness designation to Congress for both the Sheep Creek and the Sleeping Giant WSAs. This is a reversal of the draft EIS proposal.

Under ACEC management oil and gas leases would be subject to no surface occupancy. This stipulation would prevent exploration drilling and development activities from occurring within the WSAs on all federal mineral lands. Under this alternative, off-site directional drilling could take place where a company could feasibly reach their leased mineral estate.

Comment 14 (Wilson, Letter 52)

Are the 10 placer claims in NW1/4SW1/4 and NW1/4 of Section 8, R3W, T13 N valid? Are the oil and gas leases active or inactive?

Response 14

The 10 placer claims are valid only in that the claimant has been performing the annual BLM requirements. No excavation of decorative slate has occurred on these claims for at least 5 years. There are currently no oil and gas leases within the WSAs and with the exception of one partial seismic testing line, no activity has taken place.

LIST OF PREPARERS

Project Management

Brad Rixford served as the project manager, writer and specialist for wilderness/recreation. His qualifications include experience as the project manager for the Headwaters Wilderness Study/EIS, and as interdisciplinary team member for the Headwaters RMP/EIS. He has been an outdoor recreation planner and natural resource specialist with the BLM for 11 years. He has a B.S. in Outdoor Recreation from the University of Vermont.

Interdisciplinary Team

Bob Rodman served as the team specialist for land-related actions. His qualifications include experience as interdisciplinary team member for the Headwaters RMP/EIS. He has been a reality specialist with the BLM for ten years. He has a B.S. in Biology from the University of Utah.

Rich Adams served as the team specialist for range management. He has been a range conservationist with the BLM for five years. He has a B.S. in Range/Forest Management from

Colorado State University. His qualifications include experience as an interdisciplinary team member for the Bitter Creek Wilderness EIS.

David Williams served as the team specialist for minerals and energy. His qualifications include experience as interdisciplinary team member for the Centennials Wilderness Study/EIS, the Headwaters Wilderness Study/EIS, and the Headwaters RMP/EIS. He has been a geologist with the BLM for 11 years. He has a B.S. in Geology from Bates College and an M.S. in Metamorphic and Igneous Petrology from the University of Montana.

David Lomas served as the team specialist for watershed resources. His qualifications include experience as an interdisciplinary team member on the Headwaters RMP/EIS and the Mountain Foothills EIS. He was a hydrologist with the BLM for ten years. He has a B.S. in Forestry from Michigan Technological University and an M.S. in Watershed Science from Utah State University.

Larry Rau served as the team specialist for wildlife and plant resources. He has been a range conservationist and wildlife biologist with the BLM for 11 years. He has a B.S. in Range Management from Washington State University.

Jerry Clark served as the specialist for cultural resources. His qualifications include experience as an interdisciplinary team member for the South Dakota RMP/EIS, the Billings RMP/EIS, and the Terry Badlands Wilderness EIS. He has been a cultural resource specialist with the BLM for 14 years. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Montana and an M.A. in Anthropology from Washington State University.

DOCUMENT PRODUCTION TEAM

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study and EIS was produced by the Butte District and the Montana State Office. Table 5-5 lists the production team members and their function.

TABLE 5-5

DOCUMENT PRODUCTION TEAM

<i>Function</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Office</i>
Writer-Editor	Brad Rixford	Resource Area
Environmental Coordinator	Jerry Gill	District
Word Processor/		
Edit. Assistance	Delores A. Vavas	District
Typesetting/Layout	Printing & Graphics	State
Illustrator	Printing & Graphics	State
Offset Photographer	Printing & Graphics	State
Cartographic Tech.	Printing & Graphics	State
Printing Specialist	Printing & Graphics	State

COMMENT LETTERS

All the public comment letters received during the 90-day comment period on the draft EIS follow. Some letters did not reproduce well. The original letters are on file in the Butte District Office of the BLM and may be reviewed by the public upon request.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION VII, MONTANA OFFICE
FEDERAL BUILDING, 301 S. PARK, DRAWER 110086
HELENA, MONTANA 59628-0086

Ref: BNO

May 9, 1990

Brad Rixford
Project Manager
Region District
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3288
Butte, Montana 59702

Re: Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek
Wilderness Study, Draft
Environmental Impact Study

Dear Mr Rixford:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency's Region VII Montana Office (EPA) has reviewed the referenced draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The document indicates that the primary value of both study areas strongly favors non-motivated recreational opportunities. Preservation of wilderness or primitive characteristics and wildlife habitat are essential components of this value. The current management of these sites as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) underscores this observation.

While continued management as ACEC's may favor preservation of the wilderness characteristics of the areas, some mining activity will likely occur. The potential also exists for oil and gas development. The environmental significance of these activities is detailed in this document. The extent of potential road construction or related impacts to air, water quality, and other resources from these activities are not discussed. Potential cumulative impacts from foreseeable off site development on area resources are not discussed in the draft EIS. The document alludes to mitigation plans in the case of these developments. The draft EIS does not provide any insight into the nature of this mitigation, its reliability or enforceability. It is unclear to what extent these mitigation plans will be subject to public review subsequent to the record of decision for this action. The discussion of mitigation under the current livestock grazing program (p61) indicates that some problems have not been satisfactorily resolved. Since the referenced Oxbow AMP is not readily available, it would be helpful to briefly outline the key issues and any pertinent course of action planned by the Bureau in this EIS.

SUMMARY OF FINDING DEFICIENCIES

1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION

1a-LACK OF OBJECTS

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts resulting substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

1b-ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

1c-ENVIRONMENTAL DEFICIENCIES

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or modification of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

1d-ENVIRONMENTALLY UNSATISFACTORY

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potentially unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CER.

AGENCY OF THE IMPACT STATEMENT

CATEGORY 1--ADEQUATE

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative and those of the alternative reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

CATEGORY 2--INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified one reasonably available alternative that is within the spectrum of alternatives avoided in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

CATEGORY 3--INADEQUATE

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified one reasonably available alternative that is outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this process could be a condition for referral to the CER.

1

The potential impacts and mitigation which may occur under the preferred alternative are not sufficiently described to assure that significant adverse impacts will not occur. It is unclear if these issues would be addressed under NEPA in the future, if the preferred alternative is selected. The draft EIS indicates that the All Wilderness Alternative provides greater assurance for preservation of the key environmental characteristics in the study areas. Under this alternative the primary resource values identified for these sites would be maintained. The restrictions on mineral or oil and gas development under this alternative appear to be minimal. The draft EIS indicates that potential development of oil and gas resources is limited. The decorative stone resource within the Sleeping Giant represents only 25% of the potential tonnage available over a 30 year period. The draft EIS does not identify any significant adverse economic impacts resulting from selection of the All Wilderness Alternative.

The draft EIS appears to support the selection of the All Wilderness Alternative to maintain the desired resource characteristics identified for these two sites. Instead of the preferred alternative. In accordance with the criteria that EPA has established for rating draft environmental impact statements, we have rated this draft EIS as category EC-2 (Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information). A copy of EPA's rating system is attached. If you need any further EPA assistance, please feel free to contact Jeff Bryan or Lee Shanklin of my staff at (406) 449-5486 or FTS 585-5486.

Sincerely,

John F. Wardell
John F. Wardell
Director, Montana Office

Attachment

2

2

Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Helena, MT 59620
May 7, 1990

Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3288
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford,

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP) has reviewed, and offers the following comments on, the "Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement" (EIS).

The long term protection of fish and wildlife values would be best served if these areas were classified as Wilderness. Both areas meet all criteria for wilderness even though they include some portions in private mineral estate.

The advantage of this recommendation over the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) classification is that the area would be protected from mineral entry. Since the report notes that the likelihood of a commercial oil and gas deposit is low and the potential for other minerals is very low, this means like a reasonable concession to make for wildlife and hunting opportunity for present and future generations in the Helena area.

Should our recommendation for your "All Wilderness" alternative be selected, we suggest the boundary be adjusted to accommodate the existing commercial decorative elite mining operation.

An effort should be made to acquire the private mineral estate under any designation. If the ACEC designation you recommend is selected the areas should be withdrawn from mineral entry. Under any designation we support habitat improvement for bighorn sheep and other wildlife. In addition, the MDFWP feels that "horse removal" should be listed as a habitat improvement project. Removal of feral horses in these WSAs is an important prerequisite to reintroduction of bighorn sheep. We believe the above actions can be accommodated under any of the land use options being considered.

Primitive recreation associated with the wildlife resource should also be preserved.

The Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) occur in NDNHP hunting district 439. This district generally lies between Helena and Wolf Creek, bounded on the west by the Continental Divide and on the east by the Missouri River. Lying at Helena's front door, this district receives substantial hunting pressure. The Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek WSA compose the eastern portion of this district and provide the increasingly rare opportunity to hunt in primitive conditions on public lands near Montana's capital city that support an abundant elk population.

An intensive study of radio-marked elk revealed the unusual circumstance of elk moving from private to public lands during the hunting season. In October of 1989 we noted the value of these areas in correspondence to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concerning road management. Wildlife movement onto public lands during the hunting season is strong testimony to the value of this country as security for big game. This is indeed a favorable occurrence for the hunting public and a circumstance that we must preserve with as permanent a land use classification as possible.

Several points in the EIS raise concern about the long term management of the WSAs in a roadless condition. These issues are listed to illustrate our concern over long-term management of the country as undisturbed wildlife habitat:

(page 7) "WSAs are managed under the Interim Management Policy guidelines so that existing wilderness characteristics documented at the time of the inventory phase are protected until final suitability decisions are made" (emphasis added).

(pages 11 & 38) "...under ACBC management federal subsurface lands... would be open to locatable mineral entry."

(page 25) Here the BLM acknowledges that Wilderness classification, "...would ensure long-term preservation of the area's wilderness values (naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and supplemental features)."

(page 39) The report predicts that under ACBC management two road easements would be pursued to, "...enhance long term manageability."

(pages 47-69) These pages contain the Wilderness Inventories and show favorable ratings on every wilderness criteria.

In summary, the facts of the report suggest that this area could be afforded wilderness protection and guarantee the long-term security of wildlife populations without significant economic consequences other than the private mineral estate. The reasons for denying that protection are not apparent.

The MOWP commends the BLM for their improvements in livestock management in these areas and for the production of a draft EIS that was well organized, easy to read and that addressed key points directly.

Sincerely,

K. L. Cool
K. L. Cool
Director

KLC/sa

cc: Glenn Marx



Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

8400 South Fidler's Green Circle, Englewood, CO 80111, P.O. Box 908, Denver, CO 80201

Lisa Rieble Morier

Staff Analyst
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
(303) 390-2324

March 6, 1990

Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek
Draft Wilderness Study EIS

Mr. Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3382
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

Chevron U.S.A. Inc. supports your proposed action for the two captioned wilderness study areas, i.e., that they not be designated as wilderness. From an oil and gas perspective, the justification for not designating these areas as wilderness is sound: high to moderate oil and gas potential; the entire area is leased; and the existence of a split mineral estate.

Thank you for your objective examination of the issues, and for making a practical, rational recommendation.

Sincerely,

Cheryl M. Morier

LFM/ljs



WILD RIVER ADVENTURES

P.O. Box 272 • West Glacier, Montana
(406) 888-6330 May 15 - Sept. 15
(406) 442-7800 Sept. 15 - May 15

April 26, 1990

Dean Brad

This letter is being written in support of designating the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek as wilderness areas. These areas, as I'm sure you are well aware, have outstanding wilderness values which can best be protected through wilderness designation. Having visited these areas many times, my guides and myself have developed a great love and respect for these lands, and would hope that your organization would reconsider your recommendation made in the recently released DEIS. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely - Bob Jordan
owner/operator
Wild River Adventures

APR 27 1990

WILD RIVER RAFTING HEADQUARTERS
1000 WILLOW STREET • BUTTE, MT 59701 • (406) 339-1111

May 7, 1990

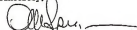
Mr. Brad Rixford
Project Manager
Sleeping Giant Wilderness
Bureau of Land Management
Butte District Office
P.O. Box 3398
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

The Montana Power Company (MPC) has reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Draft Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement.

MPC concurs with the BLM's proposal to manage the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness study areas as areas of critical environmental concern. This designation accommodates the hydroelectric, electric transmission and mineral rights issues identified in our January 28, 1988 and March 18, 1988 letters. Thank you for considering these concerns in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,


D. N. Sprague, Manager
Environmental Department

DHS/EF/bp

101203



6

May 9, 1990

Mr. Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3398
Butte, Mont. 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I just learned today about your wilderness hearings on the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas north of Helena.

I am a licensed guide. I guide hunting, fishing and sight-seeing groups of people into our unexplored, wild areas.

Unless these areas have the protection of the wilderness law, they are rapidly disappearing to development for limited community resources.

As they disappear, jobs for me and other guides disappear, also.

The Sleeping Giant, together with Sheep Creek, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and the nearby area adjacent to the area of nearly 100,000 acres of wild country offer excellent opportunities for continued guiding and outfitting. Such guided big game as moose, elk, bighorn sheep, elk, deer and bear that are found in Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek are attractive to guided big game hunters.

Imaging the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek as areas of critical environmental concern is not sufficient. Please re-open them for official wilderness.

Thank you.

Yours truly,


Roy Ramussen
3050 Flomere Dr.
Helena, Mont. 59601

7

Montana Wilderness Association

1-8-90

Brad Rixford
Butte District, BLM
P.O. Box 3398
Butte, MT 59702

re: Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness DEIS

March 4, 1990

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I think you erred in dropping the following issues from detailed analysis in the DEIS:
a. Oil & Gas.

Leasing is permitted in the ACEC and would not be with wilderness designation. "No surface occupancy" leases might not protect surface resources; they are "negotiable", and any lease conveyance rights that might legally preclude denying occupancy. The fact that the likelihood of activity is considered low is not nearly as significant for the long-term protection of wilderness values as the fact that the potential for oil & gas is considered moderate. I suspect that regulation of exploration & development of private minerals under federal surface could be more stringent and more enforceable, leases more protective, with wilderness designation than under ACEC management.

For the above reasons I urge you to study the differences between ACEC management and wilderness designation vis-a-vis the impacts of possible oil & gas activity on wilderness values and other surface resources.

b. Boundary Adjustments.

I urge you to enlge on an alternative that incorporates the addition (to the WSAs) of those lands identified for acquisition in the ACEC management plan. I feel that acquisition of those lands would significantly improve both the wilderness values and the manageability of the two WSAs (but particularly the Sheep Creek WSA). It seems arbitrary and inconsistent to not consider this boundary adjustment (because nothing is currently happening), given these areas have been identified for acquisition.

II. I think you erred in the alternative descriptions as follows:

a. Administrative uses (timber cutting, motorized equipment) would be more restricted with wilderness designation than under ACEC management, and the impacts of such uses would thus be different for the two alternatives.

b. For utility corridors, the ACEC standard is evidence whereas the wilderness standard is exclusion, again with different potential impacts on wilderness values.

7

III. Selection of the Proposed Action.

The DEIS presents no rationale for selecting the "no wilderness alternative" as the proposed action.

The analysis supports MWA's belief that both WSAs are qualified for and worthy of wilderness designation, based on their wilderness values. It also discloses that designation of wilderness would have no significant impact on the state mining.

The assertion that ACEC management will be as effective as wilderness designation in preserving wilderness values (see, e.g., page 28, second paragraph) is wrong. The ACEC was not established to protect wilderness values. The ACEC management plan does not identify preservation of wilderness values as an objective.

Let me quote from the decision on MWA's protest of a portion of the West Hill Line RMP (your file: 1617.2(760)):

"The purpose of the West Green Hills ACEC designation is not to preclude mining from the area. Rather, it is to focus management attention on the resources for which the area was designated while continuing to allow a wide variety of uses, including mineral exploration and development."

The same situation pertains here, though leasable minerals rather than locatable minerals are the major threat. One can imagine activities, such as oil & gas exploration, that would destroy or diminish the wilderness values of the area but not those surface resources that the ACEC was designated to protect. You should re-examine the effects of the alternatives on wilderness values.

The MWA believes that only wilderness designation can protect wilderness values and, further, that both WSAs should be designated as wilderness due to their outstanding wilderness values and the lack of any significant conflicts with wilderness designation. We urge you to select the wilderness alternative as the proposed action.

Sincerely,


Cedron Jones
MWA BLM Committee

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

April 25, 1990

Mr. Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness DEIS. The Wilderness Society urges you to recommend both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WAs for wilderness designation. The BLM acknowledges, in the DEIS that both Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek possess outstanding wilderness characteristics including scenic, wildlife, and recreational values as well as outstanding opportunities for solitude. The DEIS simply does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "no Wilderness" alternative as the proposed action.

Continued management as an ACEC does not provide adequate protection for the areas. Leasing is permitted under ACEC management, and there certainly is no assurance that NGO stipulations will not be waived. Additionally, under ACEC management, federal subsurface lands within the WAs would be open for locatable mineral entry.

The DEIS asserts that designation of both areas under the All Wilderness Alternative would guarantee (ensure) the long-term preservation of the areas' wilderness values including naturalness, solitude, primitive recreation and supplemental features (pp. 25). It also states that the effects of the "All Wilderness" alternative on long-term slate mining are not considered significant, despite the closure of 25 acres of commercial slate reserves within the wilderness area. Slate is not exactly a rare commodity, and its presence in the WA should not be the basis for denying wilderness status to these two outstanding areas. Additionally, the existing powerline should not be an impediment to recommending the areas for Wilderness. The BLM previously noted that while the powerline was "noticeable" it was not obtrusive.

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL OFFICE
105 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE E, BOZEMAN, MT 59715
(406) 586-1600

The final EIS should more fully analyze the effects of ACEC management on the areas' wilderness values, particularly with regards to oil and gas leasing, timber cutting, and motorized vehicle use. These impacts were not adequately addressed in the DEIS.

Again, we strongly support the designation of both areas as Wilderness. Both areas contain outstanding wilderness characteristics and there are no significant conflicts that would result from Wilderness designation. We urge you to select the "All Wilderness" alternative as the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Sandy McIntyre
Sandy McIntyre
Regional Associate
Northern Rockies



American Wildlands

(Formerly American Wilderness)
542 Sawyer Lane, Hamilton, Montana 59801 (406) 363-7188

Statement of Clifton R. Merritt
Executive Director, American Wildlands
at the Public Hearings of the Bureau of Land Management
May 9, 1990, in Helena, Montana
on the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas

I am Clifton Merritt of Hamilton, Montana. I serve as Executive Director of American Wildlands (formerly the American Wilderness Alliance).

American Wildlands is a western-based national, non-profit organization whose members and staff are working to conserve the nation's decreasing publicly owned wildlands, wildlife habitat, wetlands, fisheries and free-flowing rivers.

We have members throughout the United States, including in Montana. Many of them are familiar with the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek wilderness study areas under consideration here this evening. I have hiked and ridden horseback over the areas on many occasions.

I was born here. My father and my grandfather lie buried here. Much in his time has looked north and marveled at what the Creator has wrought—the likeness of the head and chest of a large man lying asleep on his back—the magnificent Sleeping Giant Country. In many respects, this great landscape rivals those of Mount Rushmore in the great Dakotas, for, unlike the man-made sculptures of Mount Rushmore, the Sleeping Giant is entirely a work of nature. And I am sure that the millions of South Dakotans who had the Sleeping Giant in their state today, they would cherish it and fully protect it as a natural shrine.

The two study areas are not large. Together, they encompass only 10,434 acres. But, as the Bureau of Land Management admits, both areas are highly natural, even pristine. They offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and a wide range of primitive and unmodified recreation—fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, snowshoeing, nature study and photography.

Supplemental values include superb scenic vistas—the Rocky Mountain Front, vast prairie country, Heartfoot Game Management Area, Odet of the Mountains Game Preserve and

Gettes of the Mountains Wilderness. Many diverse wildlife species make the areas their home—mountain goats, bighorn sheep, elk, black bear, golden eagles and other wildlife. In general, these sensitive species do not prosper or survive where man and his works prevail. Also, the areas could provide valuable undisturbed habitat for the nearly endangered bald eagle and the peregrine falcon.

Moreover, the areas lie adjacent to the historic Odet of the Mountains, so named by the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition as it poled its rafts up the Missouri River between the narrow limestone cliffs. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is located here.

The geographical features and geologic formations themselves are remarkable, as I have just indicated.

Yes, the Bureau of Land Management admits the presence of all these outstanding, pristine and sensitive attributes. They cry out for the strongest protection an area could have—a wilderness designation.

Yet, given this exceptional opportunity, what does the BLM do? It recommends the two wilderness study areas for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. And it wants us to believe that there will be essentially no difference in management between an ACEC and wilderness.

Well, we won't believe it! Of course, a wilderness designation provides the stronger protection. We are greatly disappointed that the BLM has not risen to the exceptional occasion and won the plaintiffs and full respect of present and future Americans by recommending wilderness.

We are reminded of the Bureau of Land Management's decision a few years ago on the Wild Missouri in Montana. Ten remarkable roadless areas are within the national Wild and Scenic River corridor of the Wild Missouri. Again, the BLM had an excellent opportunity to propose most of the areas, encompassing nearly 200,000 acres, for a wilderness classification. Did it do so? No. The BLM recommended for wilderness protection only parts of two roadless areas in the vicinity of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range.

The BLM's partial explanation? Well, National Wild and Scenic River designation for the corridor would provide adequate protection. If it would, why was a natural gas pipeline subsequently allowed and constructed against our objections across some of the areas and the river? Why have bulldozing and other developmental destruction taken place in some of the areas within the corridor? The firm protection of the 1964 wilderness Act could have prevented these atrocities.

Come on, you good people in the Bureau of Land Management. You can do better than that! You have come part way with the recognition that the areas are worthy of critical environmental concern. Now come all the way in your final decision and propose wilderness status for both the Sleeping Giant and the Sheep Creek WSAs!

Don't trade the superb wilderness qualities of these magnificent areas for 25 acres of slate rock! There's plenty of this decorative facing stone outside the WSAs--and elsewhere up the Missouri. But you always opt in favor of commodity development, even though mineral claims or oil and gas rights may be highly speculative?

Is wilderness a classification that you propose only when you can't think of anything else to do to an area? The Federal Land Policy and Management Act should have changed all that.

Reagan is not in the White House now. Bush is in the White House! He's our Environmental President! Remember? When he was in this very city last year, he extolled Montana citizens for taking proper care of their environment. Now make his proud of your action by recommending that both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs be set aside as wilderness!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

14 March 90

Howdy;

Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek

Ala: OK so you have decided not to ~~move~~ move this area as wilderness.

I can live with that - if you exclude, bar, and forbid motorized off road recreation from what ever recreation management plan you decide on for the area. What a nice area it is and can be even better managed to provide recreation for Helens area people who enjoy hiking, horseing and bike riding but only if you keep out the Motors.

+Thanks;

Tom Kilman
621 2nd Street
Helena
Montana
59601

1716 Highland St.
Helena, MT 59601
April 11, 1990

Mr. Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office
BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Brad:

I appreciated talking with you at the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness public hearing in Helena on March 27. Thank you for offering to meet with Helena Outdoor Club members and others on a hike in the Sleeping Giant area. However, I was unable to organize such a hike before the close of the comment period on May 9, 1990, because of previously scheduled outings and activities associated with Earth Day. Possibly we can arrange a hike for later in the season.

With regard to the draft Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement, I offer the following specific comments:

Change the proposed action to Wilderness for the Sleeping

Giant WSA: I am particularly concerned about guaranteeing permanent protection of the prime mountain goat habitat and outstanding primitive recreation opportunities in the "nose" region of the Sleeping Giant. Although the current BLM administration may support informal protection of wilderness values potentially accorded an Area of Critical Environmental Concern Management Plan, future administrations may not be as sympathetic. A Wilderness designation will also provide the BLM with greater leverage to acquire the subsurface rights owned by private parties.

Adjust the boundary of the Sleeping Giant WSA: I support a minor adjustment to exclude the 25 acres in the Lower Towhead Gulch area identified for possible commercial

Mr. Brad Rixford
April 11, 1990
Page 2

decorative slate excavation. Excluding two or three sites for motorboat recreationists immediately adjacent to the Missouri River could also be considered.

The BLM has a remarkable opportunity to protect as a wilderness an important wildlife habitat, an established hiking recreation area, and a prominent geological feature viewed daily by many Helena's and area visitors.

Regardless of the ultimate recommendation, adequate hiking access from the south to the "nose" of the Sleeping Giant needs to be secured. Many of us from Helena hike to the nose, but do so by crossing private property at the Sperry Ranch. Seeking permission of the land owner is difficult.

Sincerely,
Gregg R. Wheeler
Gregg R. Wheeler

bml01

April 21, 1990

Dear Mr. Rixford,

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas are not being designated for wilderness. I myself have been to these beautiful places and they definitely should be designated!!! The Bureau of Land Management yourselves described in your inventory, that these two places "provide outstanding opportunities for solitude? The Area of Critical Environmental Concern does not adequately protect the wilderness values of the area. The DEIS does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "No Wilderness Alternative" as the proposed action. I said it once and I'll say it again, the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas should be designated!!!

Thank you for your time,

Young M.C.



Mr. Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I write to comment on the BLM recommendation that the Sheep Creek WSA and Sleeping Giant WSA be designated an ACEC management area instead of Wilderness. I oppose this recommendation and strongly urge you to recommend Wilderness designation for the area.

I have hiked in the Sleeping Giant WSA, and have skirted the Sheep Creek WSA while hiking up the peak west of Sleeping Giant, above Sieben. (several different times, including once with fifteen other people). My experiences in both areas convinces me of the value of Wilderness protection for both areas. The rugged and isolated upper canyons of Sheep Creek, as viewed from above, provide a canyon-land setting unlike anything in this part of Montana. The isolation and difficulty of access into the drainage is reason enough for further protection. The views from the upper reaches of the WSA are among the best in Montana, ranging from the arid rolling terrain nearby to the snowy peaks of the Sun Marshall. What is so remarkable is that this area is only twenty minutes from Montana's capital city - and that it is so unspoiled.

Everything said about Sheep Creek can be said with greater emphasis for the Sleeping Giant WSA. I have been in many of Montana's roadless and Wilderness areas, and I believe the landscape of the Sleeping Giant area as it sweeps down to the Missouri is one of the "wildest" in the state. With the exception of perhaps higher water level in the river, this area remains as pristine as it was when Lewis and Clark came through. Sleeping Giant Wilderness, in conjunction with the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, and perhaps a national recreation area along the river, would be a real treasure for Montana.

So, why no Wilderness recommendation? Your own reviewers acknowledge the high Wilderness characteristics of both areas. There seems to be no significant resource conflicts within either area. If the state mine is the only resource conflict, and if it is adjacent to the boundary, why not just carve that 21 acres out of the unit? There appear to be no other resource conflicts precluding Wilderness whatsoever in either area. In short, there is no reason not to designate both areas Wilderness. Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek, and the already existing Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, would provide the perfect complement to Montana's other "big river" Wilderness, the BLM's Beartooth Canyon.

Please reconsider your ACEC designation, and recommend Wilderness for both Sheep Creek and Sleeping Giant. Thank you

for considering my input.

Sincerely,

David K.W. Wilson Jr.
David K.W. Wilson Jr.
405 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana 59601



April 24, 1990

Brad Rixford
Project Manager
Butte District Office
BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Subject: Wilderness Designation of Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas

Dear Mr. Rixford:

This is my comment on the recommendation that no wilderness designation be given to the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas.

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas are important regional wildlands in that they preserve natural settings and scenery above an historic stretch of the Missouri River, complement the existing Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and Montana's Beartooth Game Range on the east bank of the Missouri, provide a safe corridor for wildlife moving between the Continental Divide area to the west and the Beartooth to the east and protect local wildlife. For these reasons, I oppose your determination and ask that these areas be instead proposed for wilderness protection.

Sincerely,

Cary A. Lund
Cary A. Lund
P.O. Box 283
Helena, MT. 59624

Patricia Lindsey (MCI)
2448 Central Blvd.
Helena, Montana 59601

4/25/90

Dear Manager Rixford:

I support the Wilderness
designations for Sleeping Giant/
Sheep Creek. ACEC management
does not adequately protect the
wilderness values of these areas.
Thank you. *Rat Lindsey*

John John Schindler
311 Glenview
Helena, MT 59601

April 26, 1990

Paul Rixford, Forest Manager
Butte District Office, Butte
P.O. Box 3358
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

We are writing to express our support for
wilderness designation of Sleeping Giant-Sheep Creek,
and do not understand your administration of
the outstanding wilderness aspects of these areas,
why you have failed to designate them in your
0615.

The DOTS admitted these areas have "outstanding
opportunities for solitude," feature lovely scenic
views, provide habitat for important wildlife species,
and are pristine areas.

ACEC management, we do not feel, adequately
protects these areas - because you could remove the
elements of no surface occupancy (no-go restriction) -
and still have the natural beauty.

We don't feel you provided an adequate rationale
for selecting the "no wilderness alternative" that you
rejected the rationale?

In addition, we would like a map of these areas,
including areas greater than 1000 acres clear by, but
haven't found out how to enter these areas. We're
interested in the land from you for the long. Thanks for
your help.

John John Schindler

April 23, 1990

Paul Rixford, Forest Manager

Butte District Office

P.O. Box 3358

Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I am writing to express my support for wilderness

designations for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep

Creek areas near Helena.

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep

Creek areas are very rare opportunities for

solitude, scenic and wildlife viewing, and

provide a habitat for many other species.

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The Sleeping Giant and Sheep

Creek areas are very rare opportunities for

Shirley Thompson
30 Harrison
Helena, Montana 59601

Paul Rixford, Forest Manager
Butte District Office, Butte
P.O. Box 3358
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I am writing to express my support for wilderness
designations for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep
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The Sleeping Giant and Sheep
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provide a habitat for many other species.

Tom & Joan Eggert
212 BLAKE
HELENA, MT 59601
4/30/90

BRAD RIXFORD
PROTECT NATURE
BUTTE BLM DIST. OFFICE
P.O. BOX 5585
BUTTE, MT 59704

DEAR MR. RIXFORD,

PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION NOT TO DESIGNATE SLEEPING GIANT AND SITOP CREEK AS WILDERNESS AREAS. BOTH OF THESE AREAS HAVE OUTSTANDING VALUES THAT CAN ONLY BE PROTECTED WITH YOUR HELP. YOUR OWN INVENTOR DESCRIBES THE UNIQUE WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE AREAS. AS AN ATTORNEY THAT WORKS WITH THE MONTANA DEPT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, AND THIS ONE THAT HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH BLM, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT YOU COULD CHOOSE THE NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE (THE SAME AS OUR NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE) WITHOUT ADEQUATE RATIONALE. WHY SET YOURSELF UP TO BE SUE'D? TO PLEASE WAREX RECREATION INDUSTRIES? IS THAT WHAT YOUR JOB IS ABOUT? IS THAT YOUR STATUTORY MANDATE? LOOK HAVE BE TRUE TO YOUR CONSCIENTIOUSLY PROVIDED MANDATE. LOOK TO THE NEW DESIGNA

THAT IS SUEWING THE COUNTRY. LET WAREX KNOW THAT DOLLARS CAN NOT AIN'T DO INFLUENCE. STAND UP FOR WHAT YOUR AGENCY IS SUPPOSED TO DO. AND THAT IS TO REACH A REASONABLE DECISION, SUPPORTABLE BY YOUR RECORD. YOUR DECISION IS NOT NOW SUPPORTABLE.

YOU KNOW THE WORKINGS OF BLM BETTER THAN ANYONE. THE PAST DOES NOT SUPPORT YOUR CONTENTION THAT DESIGNATION AS AN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN WILL PROTECT THESE AREAS. PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE PROTECTED. THE ONLY SURE WAY IS TO DESIGNATE THE SLEEPING GIANT AND SITOP CREEK AREAS AS WILDERNESS AREAS. YOUR DESIGNATION IS NOT EVEN A FIRST DETERMINATION. THAT REMAINS IN CONGRESS' HANDS.

PLEASE DON'T ARTIFICIALLY LIMIT THEIR TRAILING.

Tom & Joan Eggert

Helena, Mont
April '30-1990

Mr. Brad Rixford
Butte Dist. BLM
Butte, MT.

Dear Mr. Rixford

Please Consider this letter as one supporting Wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas. As a native Montanan in Helena for 69 years I feel this should be Country that is forever wild. We do enjoy hiking in the area and being so close to the City, makes it a natural for Wilderness.

Please, Can I count on your help?

Thanks kindly,

Harold Larsenbach
630 N. Hoback
Helena, MT. 59601

4/30/90

Dear BLM

I am writing to voice your support for designating both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek as wilderness.

My I remind you that you own inventory documents the outstanding wilderness characteristics of both areas.

The BLM Management does not adequately protect the wilderness values of the area.

The BLM does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "no wilderness alternative" as the proposed action I support for wilderness designation. Both Wildcat have outstanding values that can be only protected through designation.

Best
Mary Henry
721 S. 8th St.
Helena, MT 59604

PO Box 623
Helena, MT 59621
April 30, 1990

Brad Ristard, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
PO Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Ristard,

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction in your decision not to designate, as wilderness, the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas.

As the BLM inventory states, both areas have outstanding wilderness characteristics. These areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, scenic vistas and various primitive recreation opportunities. The NCEC management does not protect these areas adequately.

Because of the above reasons and the fact that the DEIS does not present an adequate rationale for the selection of the "no wilderness alternative," I firmly believe that the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas should be designated as wilderness in order to protect the wilderness values.

Sincerely,
Harriet Platt
Harriet Platt

2314 - 7 Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59402
April 30, 1990

Brad Ristard, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P. O. Box 3388

Dear Mr. Ristard:

This is in response to the draft environmental impact statement concerning wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek study areas.

I feel that both these areas, although small in size (especially Sheep Creek) are deserving of wilderness designation. They both have a number of important wildlife species, scenic areas and vistas, solitude, and possibilities for primitive recreation.

Also these areas are near two large metropolitan areas, thus offering opportunities for nature study and enjoyment within a reasonable distance.

Sincerely yours,

Carley McCuskey
(Miss) Carley McCuskey

921 4 Ave So
Great Falls 59405
April 29 '90

Brad Ristard, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Ristard,

I am writing to support a wilderness designation for both Sheep Creek and Sleeping Giant. ACCE management does not protect the wilderness assets of these 2 areas.

Sincerely,
Ray Johnson

April 24, 1990

Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

We are writing to urge you to recommend the Sleeping Giant area for wilderness designation.

We strongly disagree that Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation is adequate. Wilderness designation would preclude development allowed under ACCE designation.

The area is wild and deserving of wilderness designation. Pristine wild areas, especially on BLM-managed lands are rare and the few left should be preserved in a natural state.

Sincerely,

George Ostating
Rhonda Ostating
George and Rhonda Ostating
4303 25th Ave. NE, # 13
Seas, OR 97303

MICHAEL JOSEPH BEST

ELIZABETH ALLARD BEST

April 27, 1990

Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Re: Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness study areas

Dear Mr. Rixford:

We are writing this letter to object to the BLM recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement wherein that the BLM recommends against designating the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas as wilderness. We strongly support designation of both areas as wilderness for the following reasons.

First, the BLM acknowledges in its DEIS that the Sleeping Giant area provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, spectacular view of the Rocky Mountain front, Missouri River and the Big Belt Mountains, outstanding opportunities for year long primitive recreation, and a great diversity of important wildlife species (mountain goats, elk, black bear, mule deer, osprey and golden eagles). The BLM also acknowledges in its DEIS that the Sleeping Giant is pristine with no significant signs of past human activity, that despite its small size it provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, provides outstanding opportunities for a diversity of primitive and unconfined recreation, and contains a great diversity of important wildlife species and striking scenic vistas.

In addition, it is our opinion that the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) management does not adequately protect the wilderness values of the area. Further, the DEIS, in our opinion, does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "No Wilderness Alternative" as the proposed action.

We strongly support wilderness designation for both areas because they have values which can only be protected through such designation.

Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Re: Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness study areas
April 27, 1990
Page Two

We strongly encourage you and the BLM to reconsider your decision to designate these areas as "no wilderness." It is quite clear to us that the concessions made in the DEIS clearly support designation of these areas as wilderness, rather than as "no wilderness."

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Best
Elizabeth A. Best

Michael J. Best
Michael J. Best

April 30, 1990
30 Blue Jay Heights
Glancy, MT 59604

Dear Mr. Rixford:

Thank you for earlier receipt of Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness study/Environmental Impact statement materials.

I believe that these two areas should be designated wilderness as:

Without legal protection there is no assurance that the areas will be left undeveloped by mining and other intrusions.

The slate mining mentioned should not be an issue as per your report and geological analysis there is enough slate to last many years and need for this material should not arise.

The two areas contain a great amount of diversity both plant and animal.

The areas are large enough to provide year around wilderness type recreation such as hunting, hiking, camping and wildlife observation.

Please give your support in designating these areas as wilderness.

Sincerely,
Gordon Thompson
Gordon Thompson

Don J. Seymour
1212 9th St.
Glancy, MT 59601
May 11, 1990

Business of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702
Attention: Director

Dear Director -
I would like to join the many others who believe strongly that the Sleeping Giant area recently studied for its wilderness suitability should be designated as wilderness instead of Area of Critical Environmental Concern. There is too much room for risk of development under ACEC.

The magnificence of a hidden view complex of this area and other of the mountain etc, need the protection of this change of designation.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Don J. Seymour

810 Power
Helena, Montana 59601

April 1, 1990

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3368
Butte, Montana 59702

To whom it may concern:

I have had the privilege to hike in the Sleeping Giant Area and appreciate its natural state. Knowing you recognize that it is an area that has wilderness values and are presently managing it as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, presents problems I see as possible mismanagement. I do not feel this kind of management is adequate. With this type of management the area is available for oil and gas leasing, exploration and developing. Though some argue that these operations do not impact that much on an area of this type, I disagree.

Consideration needs to be to the wilderness values for peaceful solitude and sheer enjoyment of the beauty of Montana. We Montanans as well as those people that visit here from congested municipal and industrial areas should have an opportunity to appreciate nature in its natural state. In our world and society these opportunities are disappearing rapidly. We need to protect those areas for our own generation and those that come after us.

I strongly support The Sleeping Giant Area for Wilderness designation.

A Montana Native,

Neal C. Smith
Neal C. Smith

2420 7th Ave N, #32
Great Falls, MT 59401

May 1, 1990

Brad Ricksford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3368
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Ricksford:

I am writing you to voice my support in favor of designating Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas as Wilderness. I understand that a recent BLM environmental impact statement recommended against such designations.

As you know Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas are currently managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) covering more than 10,000 acres. While BLM management objectives for an ACEC are "oriented toward protection and enhancement", they do not provide permanent protection for the areas wilderness values. The BLM has itself recognized that both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude, spectacular views of several mountain ranges, and contain a great diversity of important wildlife species. In spite of these outstanding wilderness characteristics, the BLM is not recommending the areas for wilderness designation. This is a disgrace!

According to the BLM environmental impact statement, these two spectacular areas would be closed to surface occupancy for oil and gas exploration and development. However, this does not guarantee protection, since the BLM is well known for waiving these stipulations. Additionally, federal subsurface lands within the areas would be open for locatable mineral entry.

I can't express too strongly my desire that you recommend the preservation of these irreplaceable resources. Montanans must protect our birth right. The areas of pristine wilderness are fast disappearing and can only be protected through wilderness designation.

Jeffrey S. Gardner
Jeffrey S. Gardner

GREAT FALLS ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES

PHYSICIAN PROFESSIONAL CENTER, SUITE 8
1500 25TH STREET SOUTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59405
TELEPHONE 402-781-1810

J. W. RICHMOND, M.D.
PAUL M. MELVIN, M.D.
W. LIA GORDON, M.D.

April 27, 1990

CHARLES D. JENNINGS, M.D.
BUREAU OF THE MOUNTAINS

Mr. Brad Ricksford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3368
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Ricksford:

I am writing to you in support of designating both Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas as wilderness areas. It is my feeling that the ACEC management does not adequately protect the wilderness values of the area. I am familiar with the outstanding wilderness characteristics which your own inventory describes. I feel that the DELS does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "No Wilderness Alternative" as the proposed action. I strongly support wilderness designation for Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek. I believe this is the only way that they can be adequately protected.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Jennings
Charles D. Jennings, M.D.

CDJ:88



May 2, 1990

Dear Mr. Ricksford,

I would like to express my concern about the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Areas. I definitely feel both areas should be given wilderness designation. They are presently wilderness - though not formally designated - and provide wonderful opportunities for hiking, solitude, and wildlife viewing (especially mountain goats). The Sleeping Giant is a special and significant landmark for all who live in Helena and a hike to the "Nose" is always very special, and very popular. Also, this area ties in with The Bearfoot State Management Area and the ethics of the Mtns. Wilderness. And there should be more wilderness areas close to urban areas because of the need for

primitive, non-motorized
recreation. Such easily accessible
areas offer such opportunities
without necessitating long drives.

ACEC status does not
protect the special wilderness
values of such an outstanding
landmark. Please designate
these areas wilderness.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Lara Tolman
SARA TOLMAN
940 WILDER
HELENA, MT
59601



P.O. Box 1205
Helena, Montana 59604
May 3, 1990

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the BLM's draft report/OEIS concerning
the suitability of the Sleeping Giant area for wilderness designation
recommends against such designation. The report, as I understand it, con-
tends that the present management of Sleeping Giant as an Area of Critical
Environment Concern is adequate. Such designation, however, makes the
Sleeping Giant area available for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and
development. This is unacceptable.

Please accept this letter as a protest against anything short of wilder-
ness designation for the Sleeping Giant area. I would appreciate the
Bureau's advising me of its ultimate decision on this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Dale Summers

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Attn.: Brad Rixford, Project Manager

Dear Mr. Rixford:

We support wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek
area. A review of your Environmental Impact Statement indicates these two
contiguous areas have all the necessary qualifications for a fine wilderness.

Additionally, they would form a block of protected land with the Bear-
tooth Game Range, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area and the Gates of the
Mountain Game Preserve.

Under Forest Service and Fish and Game co-management, wildlife has permanent
protection along with wilderness recreation.

The Bureau of Land Management also seeks to give administrative protection
to its areas under ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern). But experience
has shown that wilderness designation would provide the permanent protection critical
to the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek areas.

The BLM exchange effort recognizes the special public values of these
two areas. Wilderness classification is essential to add permanency to your good
efforts.

Sincerely,

Noel & Irene Rosetta
Noel and Irene Rosetta

1100 Wisconsin Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
May 2, 1990

Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

May 4, 1990

Mr. Rixford:

I am writing to support designating the Sleeping
Giant and Sheep Creek areas for Wilderness!

Both areas have outstanding values and wilderness
characteristics that can only be protected and guaranteed
by wilderness designation. The BLM has acknowledged the
values and opportunities of these areas in the recent
draft environmental impact statement, and yet, recommended
a "no wilderness" designation.

ACEC management will not adequately and permanently
protect the wilderness values of these areas. It seems
too easy, as history shows, to waive stipulations for no
surface occupancy.

I do not understand the rationale for selecting the
"no wilderness" alternative as based on the DEIS, nor do
I support this conclusion.

Please re-evaluate!

Respectfully,

Phyllis Barron
Phyllis Barron
P.O. Box 277
Augusta, MT 59410

BP : YAW

May 4, 1990

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear BLM:

This letter is written to express my strong support for designating the Sleeping Giant area as wilderness. I spend many of my summer and fall leisure hours in this area and want it protected from oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development. Without the wilderness designation this cannot be guaranteed.

Please reconsider your recommendation that the ACEC status is enough to protect the area. Wilderness values exist in the area as you know, so please protect these priceless assets and designate the Sleeping Giant as a wilderness area as it deserves.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Joe Jackson
Joe Jackson
1821 Lullita
Helena, MT 59601

May 5 1990

Dear BLM

We are very concerned about the Sleeping Giant / Sleep Creek area which is rich in wildlife. It truly deserves a wilderness recommendation. Unfortunately, we understand that BLM has recommended that this be categorized as "Area of Critical Environmental Concern". And a title sounds like good protection BUT it indicates that area to mineral development, mining, oil & gas leasing, roads, exploitation & development. Even motorized vehicles & some timbering could possibly be allowed under such a category.

We urge you to change your recommendation not to Sleeping Giant / Sleep Creek and from "Area of Critical Environmental Concern", a misnomer if ever there was one, to WILDERNESS for the entire area.

Very truly yours,
Joe Jackson
and *his*

PHILIP HEIKKINEN
729 9th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Brad Rickford, Project Mgr.
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702
5/6/90

Dear Mr. Rickford:

I am writing to voice my support for the designation of Sleep Creek & Sleeping Giant as wilderness. I believe strongly that there is no other way to protect adequately the unique, valuable resources that these two areas encompass. Your recent Draft EIS does not persuade me at all that ^{economic} exploitation of these areas would not occur, resulting in irreparable damage.

Please! Make a decision protecting their long-term survival.

Sincerely,
Philip Heikkinen

Dear Mr. Rickford

5/6/90

I strongly object to merely ACEC designation for the Sleeping Giant.

Please keep it as Wilderness

Younis
Smith

Tim Palmer

May 6, 1990

Cred. Rixford, Mont. Agr.
Bully District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I am writing to encourage an all wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas ^{under} of wilderness study. My folks, home, the home I hope to inherit, is just a few miles from the areas in question. They built there previously because of the beauty of the area, and I look forward to making this my family's home for the same reason.

Quality of life is very important to Montanans. I know I could make a better living almost any place closer than Montana, but I could almost every find a park. But we wouldn't have better lives elsewhere. What makes the difference is wilderness. It is the beauty and pristine quality that brought us to Montana and if that goes there seems no reason to stay. Please don't sacrifice the beauty that could sustain countless generations in the future for the instant gratification of a few jobs.

Sincerely,

Tim Palmer

Tim Holmes, Sculptor

Contact: Bob Frazer/GS, 1515 Warren, Helena, Montana 59601 telephone 406/443-1690

5/6/90

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I am writing to you to express my support for wilderness designation for Sleeping Giant & Sheep Creek.

I feel strongly that we must protect these vital areas. As for my husband & I, I drove to Butte & we were becoming increasingly dismayed at the signs along the way of increasing land use by logging & mineral exploration.

We must leave some areas like Sleeping Giant & Sheep Creek alone to survive as they are. Our ecosystems are hanging in a precarious balance & we can no longer afford to exploit & intrude on every piece of land in this state. This state is one of the last unspoiled places on

earth.

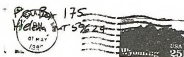
My husband & I live here because of the wilderness, fresh air & solitude. Many of our educated friends have left this State to go to the bigger cities & make more money. My husband & I went to college. Education is also but we wouldn't trade where we live for all the money in the world.

Sincerely
John Mackerey R.N.
Box 333
Helena, MT
59701



5/7/90

Totem Pole Series - enamel on paper
1980
Marilyn Francis - Faculty



Dear Brad,

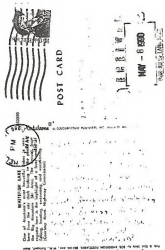
I live in Helena and have climbed all over the world - Nepal, Tibet, Peru, USSR etc.

I have climbed the Sleeping Giant rose and think it's an excellent resource deserving of Wilderness Status. Butte, MT 59702

Don't make a mistake, but include it in wilderness proposals! Sincerely, George Schuk

Dear BRAD -

Give the Giant a
Break!! - Please change
your decision - keep the
GIANT / SHOGG CHECK AMEN
WICKS - Doug & JAN CRAIG



JOHN A. BRADY
2000 N. 1st St.
Burt, Montana 59702

May 4, 1950

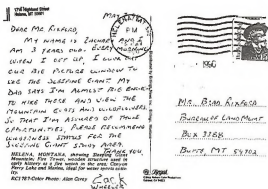
Director of Post Management
Box 3322
Burt, Montana 59702

Dear Sir,

Please accept my following complaint concerning the
Shoggy Giant who
is taking advantage of people to deceive and destroy their lives
and their
As the man's background attributes are a blend of such a person
National was informed.
to them, but that the Shoggy Giant is a person, and to include
for the 14,000 of 1950

Sincerely,

John A. Brady



5-8-90

Dear Mr. Rixford:

Please reconsider
B.L.M.'s draft about
Sleeping Giant north
of Helena. This area
needs to be designated
a wilderness to
protect it.

Thank you.

May Lindsay

Mon May 7, 1990

Dear Mr. Fred Rixford:

I urge you to change your recommendation on Sleeping Giant.

The entire Sleeping Giant-Sheep Creek study area by all
means should be classified as WILDERNESS. Especially
so because it is so close to areas of Wilderness and
to the Deerfoot Wildlife Area.

Please do not let down future generations on this one.

Please please recommend WILDERNESS FOR SLEEPING GIANT
AREA.Respectfully yours, *Don E. Smith* Don E. Smith
Helena, MT 59604-0002

41 year resident of Helena; 73 year old Federal retiree
who stays in Helena because of the outdoors that is
classified WILDERNESS nearby.

Dear BLM,

I am concerned about your recent recommendation
final wilderness protection of the Sleeping Giant/
Sheep Creek area.

Please change your recommendation to
"wilderness".

Leave the Sleeping Giant as is!

Thank you,
Anne Haire

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I would appreciate your recommendation of your
decision not to recommend wilderness designation
for the Sleeping Giant area. Although the ACEC
designation does offer some protection against development
it still permits mining, oil & gas development, roads and
access by motorized vehicles. I believe the qualities of
the Sleeping Giant area deserve wilderness protection.

Thank you for your consideration,
Don E. Smith

1113 9th Ave.
Helen, MT 59601
May 8, 1990

Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59703

I urge you to recommend wilderness status for the wonderfully
diverse Sleeping Giant area.

Thank you.

Joyce Beckas
Joyce Beckas

Harry E Wilson
2120 N Callow Ave
Bremerton, WA 98312-2908
May 8, 1990

Brod Rixford
Project Manager
Butte District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5308
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Sleeping Giant and Sheep
Creek Wilderness Study.

Both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas should be
recommended for wilderness to preserve the unique solitude
of the areas. The decorative stone mining on the 25 acres
should not be needed for over 9,300 years per the statement
and should be acquired. Are the 10 placer claims in
FEL/ASPL/A and FEL/A of Section 8, 23N, 71E valid? Are the
oil and gas leases active or inactive?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Harry E Wilson
Harry E Wilson
2120 N Callow Ave
Bremerton, WA 98312-2908

5/7/90

Dear Mr. Ruffel

I firmly oppose the BLM
recommendation against wilderness protection
of the Sleeping Giant.
Please keep the Sleeping Giant
as is!

Sincerely,

Angela J. Lebrun



5/2/90

BEAD RIVER
BLM
Box 3328
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Sir

Please accept this letter as a statement
of support for designation of the Sleeping
Giant / Sheep Creek area as
wilderness. The area Southwest of Helena
is a high ridge with wild hillsides by are
particularly desirable to us. There are
though relatively small area with a drawing
of potential. Thank you

Sincerely

Harry E Wilson
Harry E Wilson

002 - 10

David Ruessoff
504 N. Roberts
Helena, MT 59601
May 7, 1990

Brad Rixford, Project Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Subject: Wilderness Designation for Sleeping Giant and
Sheep Creek

Dear Sir:

I am writing to express my support for wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas. I hope that you will recommend wilderness designation for those areas.

Sincerely,

David Ruessoff
David Ruessoff

May 8, 1990

Matthew Wilson
112 Mt. View Blvd
Cut Bank, Montana 59427

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I am writing to you concerning the Sleeping Giant, Sheep Creek areas. I feel both these truly pristine areas should be designated as wilderness. Recently, I have read the many outstanding points the BLM acknowledges in the DEIS. The Sleeping Giant, Sheep Creek area has provided so much for so many, they have become a landmark for area residents and a cherished experience for visitors. With so many outstanding qualities does it make sense to leave this land unprotected? Any development of these areas will only be another loss not only to those who enjoy its solitude but also to the great diversity of wildlife. The values of these areas can only be protected by wilderness designation. Please help in the preservation of these wonderful lands.

Most Sincerely,

Matthew Wilson
Matthew Wilson

P.O. Box 1279
Helena, MT 59624
May 7, 1990

Mr. Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

This letter is to support wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant area, as opposed to BLM's apparent recommendation of the Wilderness Study Area to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek study area is close to Helena other valuable, wild areas including the Beartooth Wildlife Management Area and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. This area provides wonderful opportunities for year-round primitive recreation, spectacular views of the Rocky Mountain Front, Missouri River, and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness. This is home to a great diversity of important wildlife species, including mountain goats, elk, black bear, mule deer, osprey, and golden eagles.

Overflights show how little unscathed areas remain intact near our capital. I hope that the BLM will revise its recommendation for this area. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Wallace
Stephen L. Wallace
Attorney at Law

May 4, 1990

Dear Sir,

I am writing this to you to let you know I strongly support designating the Sleeping Giant & Sheep Creek as wilderness areas.

In the BLM inventory both of have been designated as having outstanding wilderness characteristics. ACEC management does not adequately protect the wilderness values of our area. DEIS does not present an adequate rationale for selecting the "no wilderness alternative as proposed action. Both areas have outstanding values that can only be protected through wilderness designation. We must save our country for ourselves & future generations.

David
Matthew Wilson

May 4, 1990

May 9, 1990

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford,

Your Department has recommended against wilderness protection of the Sleeping Giant - on Helena's northern horizon. Instead your department is proposing management of the Sleeping Giant wilderness study area as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern," (ACEC), rather than wilderness. I am against this change on the basis that the (ACEC) designation would open this pristine area up to mineral development, mining, oil and gas leasing, roads, exploration, and development. My wife and I are avid outdoor people who enjoy this area tremendously, and we would not want to see the area ruined like many areas of the country by development. We want this area to remain in the wilderness protection designation.

Sincerely,

William B. Davis

William B. Davis
William B. Davis

9 May 1990

Dear Sir,

The Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek study area is precious to me. Please recommend the entire area for wilderness. Nothing less! No ACEC status.

Christian Frazza
1726 Wilder Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

May 9, 1990

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Brad -

Four years ago this summer, I moved to Montana. Clearly, precisely, I came to Montana because of its wilderness beauty, and as yet, not chiefly developed and man-manured outdoors. I read awhile later in the paper the debate over wilderness designation. The path seems clear to me.

1. Preserve & protect what wilderness we have like Sleeping Giant. We'll never have it again, if you even allow the possibility for development.

2. Hiking through, and looking through Montana outdoors. I had nothing to debate.

3. Looking at Pegasus Creek. I would imagine that the corporation was going to reclaim the big holes it made. Looking at the hillsides, not only quite by overlooking.

Please put it beyond doubt. Remember you have a chance to "save" wilderness protection.

William B. Davis
William B. Davis
Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

"Box 683
Helena, MT 59624
May 7, 1990

Brad Rixford, "Forest Manager
Butte District Office, BLM
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the BLM's decision not to designate the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas as wilderness. Current Management as an ACEC will not provide permanent protection of these areas' wildernessness.

In the 1980s for both areas, the BLM did not take opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, scientific, historical, educational, and scenic beauty - all are essential elements of wilderness and as such, should receive due protection.

I am writing the BLM to demand wilderness and propose wilderness designation for both areas. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Ann & David

Fred Rindford
Business of Land Management
P.O. Box 3300
Baker, M.T. 57802

Re: Sleeping Giant, Sleep Creek Study Area

Dear Mr. R. Ford:

I am writing to request that the BLM reverse its recommendation against wilderness protection for the Sleeping Giant (Sleep Creek) area north of Helena. Certainly the inherent character of these areas warrant their classification and protection as designated wilderness. These qualities are the more deserving of protection when we consider their proximity to the Helena valley urban area.

Designation of nearby wilderness has consistently been shown to promote local economic health & maintain communities. The Bureau's reconsideration and reversal of its recommendation concerning the Alpine-Flat Sheep Creek area will bring the greatest loss to the lands in question and to the local economy.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Linda Reading
2715 13th St. SE
Bremerton, WA 98311

Trans. U.S. National Acad.

LINDA ROBBINS
317 15TH ST. SE.
HUNTSVILLE, AL. 35894

May 10, 1990

On anyone and miners live the main street of Garnet. Nowhere is the early 1930's. A stingercock operated by Garnet stonecarver F.A. Day provided travel to Beaverhead, Colorado and points beyond. Photo courtesy of S.L.M., Missoula, MT.

DEAR MR. RYLAND

We sincerely apologize the
disruption of the Sheep Creek study area as winter
wax. Please change your ex-
communication (from AEC) for this
wonderful work.

We both hike a lot - it is
on Sunday (5/6) for a first-hand
look - it is worth picturing as
wilderness! Tim & Beth Baker
1831 42.7215 Gulch, Helena, 59601

BRAD RIXFORD
Bureau of Land
Management
Box 3888
Butte, UT
59702

[illegible]

12.12.12

5/8/90

Mr. Rixford:

Count me as one Helena
resident, Montana citizen,
~~American~~ voter, global resident
who believes the loss of the
Sweeping Giant / Sheep Creek area
would be a loss for everyone.
Please don't look on this as a
short term decision. Think of
saving one of our last wild places.
Sincerely, Pat Helvey

May 7, 1990

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I am concerned regarding the retention of the present wild character of the Sleeping Giant.

I am sure I join many in the hope of seeing this beautiful wild mountain protected into the future.

It would seem a classification as wilderness might achieve this goal.

I was raised here in Helena and have spent much of my life associated with wildlife management and wild land matters.

Very sincerely

Bob Cooney
280 Wallace
Helena, Montana
59601

Paul D. Johnson
317 13th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Re: Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek
Wilderness Study Area

May 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I am writing to register my strong support for reversing the Bureau's decision to recommend no wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek Wilderness Study Area. I am particularly interested in protecting these areas because my family and I often hike (and hunt) in these areas. Both areas are well qualified for wilderness designation, since they are composed of rugged, scenic wild land in a pristine state. Both areas would perfectly complement the Gate of the Mountains Wilderness across the river as well. And it would be wonderful to have a BLM wilderness created in these areas since they are so close to Helena. I therefore respectfully request that you reconsider your draft recommendation against wilderness protection for these areas, and that you recommend them for wilderness designation instead. Thank you, Sincerely, Paul D. Johnson

115 Pine Street
Helena, MT 59601
May 8, 1990

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

RE: SLEEPING GIANT/SHEEP CREEK STUDY AREA

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I am discouraged to hear that the BLM has not recommended wilderness protection for the Sleeping Giant area north of Helena, and I write this letter with the hope that you and the BLM will reconsider your land-use recommendation for the area.

The Missouri River corridor is rapidly becoming one of the most popular and scenic recreation areas in the state. From its blue-ribbon trout fishing to its reservoir boating to its attractiveness for camping to its floating and hiking opportunities, the Missouri River near from Canyon Ferry down to Hardy is a favorite spot for a growing number of people.

The heart of the Missouri corridor's allure in the spectacular wild country which abuts the river, and it makes sense - both for now and for the future - to protect the wild lands in their undeveloped natural state. Only wilderness protection will do this.

Wilderness for the Sleeping Giant makes even more sense when one considers the rapid subdivision and second-home development that is occurring on the river. As the corridor becomes more place for homesites and less a place for nature, it becomes critical to save what wild country we can ... now.

Please do all you can to promote wilderness for the Sleeping Giant. I appreciate your attention.

Sincerely,

Bob Decker
Bob Decker

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

I write to support a change in the current BLM recommendation regarding the Sheep Creek/Sleeping Giant study area. I understand that the BLM currently recommends against the wilderness designation of this area. I was hiking in the Sheep Creek area just this last weekend and was impressed with the wilderness character and opportunity for wilderness experience in this rugged, pristine area. While there, I had an opportunity to observe nine mountain goats in their native habitat. If this land were to lose its protected status, I believe that significant opportunities for this and future generations could be lost. I strongly urge the BLM to recommend that this area be included in the wilderness protection system.

Sincerely,

Paul Johnson 5/9/90
Paul Johnson
Box 218
Helena, Montana 59624

May 9, 1990

Bred Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 1386
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Sir:

I regret that I cannot be at your wilderness hearing tonight on the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas.

My family and I strongly support wilderness for both areas.

I am a lifelong resident of the Helena area, and I have always enjoyed looking north and seeing the unusual Sleeping Giant landmark in its undisturbed condition. I desire, as does my family, that it always remain that way, undisturbed and undeveloped. Wilderness is the best protection that the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek could have. They deserve nothing less. And as you show in your tentative environmental statement are very well qualified for wilderness.

Also, close to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness and Heart of the Gears Range and other special areas, they would complement and add to the ecological importance of each.

Please reverse your draft decision and propose wilderness for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas!

Sincerely yours,

Dorrie Hodges
Dorrie Hodges
1409 Buffalo Road
Helena, Montana 59601

1365 5th Ave., Unit 2
Helena, MT 59601
May 9, 1990

Mr. Bred Rixford, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1386
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford:

This is in regard to your draft environmental impact statement on the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek wilderness study areas.

I am very disappointed that you have not recommended wilderness for these areas. In your final environmental impact statement, I urge you to do so.

I was born and spent most of my life here in Helena. The Sleeping Giant has always been a great attraction to me. I want this natural area and the undisturbed Sheep Creek area kept undeveloped and wild as they are today. Wilderness status best assures this.

Your descriptions of the areas point to the fact that both units are well qualified for wilderness status. You indicate that these areas provide outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, that the areas possess high quality solitude, and have diverse wildlife and historic values. These are all qualifications for a wilderness classification.

An area of critical environmental concern classification for these areas is not good enough. It will not protect them from slate rock mining, other types of mining and other development.

Please make a final recommendation of wilderness for these two splendid areas.

Sincerely,

Dianne E. McKnight
Dianne E. McKnight

1720 Livingston Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601
May 9, 1990

Hearing Officer
Bureau of Land Management
Helena, Montana

Dear Sir:

I have reviewed your Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas.

I think you would be making a big mistake if you didn't make a final decision to designate these areas as wilderness.

In the first place, the areas have all of the necessary attributes for a wilderness designation under the 1964 Wilderness Act, as you verify in your EIS.

Secondly, the areas provide essential habitat for numerous kinds of wildlife that basically require wilderness environment—mountain goats, elk, bighorn sheep, black bears, eagles and ospreys.

Thirdly, they are part of a greater Gates of the Mountains wild ecosystem, the development of any portion of which will have an adverse impact on the whole ecosystem.

Finally, I teach in the public schools of Helena. My students and others enjoy the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek areas for their primitive recreation and nature study. Development would impair these values. Keep them wild. Recommend them for a wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hall
Darlene Hall

May 9, 1990

Bred Rixford
BLM
Butte, MT

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I strongly support wilderness designation for the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek Study Area. The area deserves its exceptional values for wildlife, hiking and hunting because it is roadless -- wilderness designation would preserve these values and the primitive character of the land. Designation administratively, as an ACEC does not provide the permanent protection this area needs. Rather, we will simply end up fighting battle after battle as this exceptional area is subjected to various development proposals.

Let's do the right thing for the land now and endorse permanent -- wilderness protection for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek. Thank you for your consideration. High Jackson
316 Montgomery
Helena, MT 59601



P.O. Box 422
Bozeman, Montana 59632
(406) 225-4233
May 10, 1990

District Supervisor
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Box 3158
Butte, MT 59702

Dear District Supervisor,

This is a follow-up to my Jan. 30, 1988 letter, in which I supported wilderness designation for the entire Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek study areas.

I believe I received a response to that letter. However, I have heard of your recent recommendation against protection for this special area.

Montana's last remaining wildlands are one of the nation's most important natural treasures. The country has finally realized its mistake of destroying so many wild areas of the East Coast, Midwest and West Coast. Citizens are mobilizing in these areas to restore a desecrated natural world and to create sustainable economic practices.

The wildlands of Montana and Idaho are fragile remnants from which national ecological health can spread. They represent the backbone for stable long-term environmental and societal well-being. This region's few remaining roadless areas must be protected.

Perhaps you are unaware of the reverence with which Frickley Pear (Johns) Valley residents have beheld the Sleeping Giant. For hundreds and, perhaps, thousands of years, the Sleeping Giant has been legendary, holding the awe of those of all those who live in his shadow.

As one lucky enough to be born next to this gentle giant, I ask you to reconsider your decision to allow his home to be violated by mining, logging and ORV's. Please.

After politics and greed are put aside, I have no doubt that you understand the Sleeping Giant deserves to be protected as designated wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Paul Rixford
Paul Rixford

3/11/90

3RD RIXFORD 77
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BUTTE, MT

DEAR MR. RIXFORD:

WE ARE WRITING TO URGES THE BLM TO RECONSIDER THE RECENT AGENCY RECOMMENDATION AGAINST WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR THE SLEEPING GIANT/SHEEP CREEK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA.

WE ARE FREQUENT VISITORS TO THE MISSOULI RIVER LEACH BOUNDING THE SLEEPING GIANT AREA. THIS IS ONE OF THE FINEST FRESHWATER FISHING AREAS IN MONTANA AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY AMAZED AND GRATIFIED BY THE BIRDS, WILDLIFE AND GENERAL BEAUTY TO BE FOUND ALONG THIS PIECE OF RIVER.

THE WILD VALUES OF THIS AREA CANNOT BE PROTECTED BY AN ACEC. DESIGNATION THAT MAY ALLOW MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, ROADING, OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OR VEHICULAR USE. ~~THE~~ SLEEPING GIANT / SHEEP CREEK IS DESIGNATED OR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW TO ITS WILDLIFE AND RECREATIONAL VALUES, EVEN UNDER THE ACEC DESIGNATION.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS AREA. IT SHOULD BECOME DESIGNATED WILDERNESS.

Sincerely,

MARK SHAPLEY
419 ADAMS
HELENA, MT 59601

Lynda A. Saul
419 Adams, Helena, MT
59601

BOB FITZGERALD
1515 WINNE
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
(406) 442-1690

Brad Rixford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3158
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Rixford,

Please add my name to the list of those who urge you to give ~~additional~~ protection to the entire Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek area. Calling it an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" would not provide enough protection of this scenic area.

I appreciate your efforts in this area.

Respectfully,

Robert S. Fitzgerald
Robert S. Fitzgerald

Dear Brad,

Please accept these as my comments on the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek study area draft EIS.

As the study clearly points out, the most valuable area resource is the Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek's naturalness and its geologic integrity. There are no other resources within the area that come close to its natural/geologic values. The land grazing and MPE practices are very slight intrusions within the essentially naturalness.

It believes that designation of the area as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern would not be suitable to protect the natural integrity from mineral exploration, mining, roads and logging, nor from off-highway driving (such

as the wildcat will south of Fingerprint) nor from other mechanical uses that would compromise the areas natural and geologic values.

If the BLM believes that the Sleeping Giant's highest value is its natural and geologic integrity, then the most effective management use is no wilderness. The ACEC designation would. Disrupt changing uses such as mineral development and industrial uses, and

2) is an important administrative designation that could be changed by future laws. No administrative designation has yet provided long term protection for natural lands - which is why Congress reserved the right to establish and rescind wilderness designation.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the BLM's draft proposal and would ask that a copy of the Final EIS be sent to me at:

Mark Kelley
401 S. Benton
Helena, MT 59601

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Kelley



I am writing to voice my concern about the proposed recommendation the BLM office is making for the Sleeping Giant area. It is critical that we consider the future of wild life and lands undisturbed by "development". The designation of this being proposed does not provide adequate protection for this area. Please consider the concerns of individuals representing the lands interest. Thanks for all your hard work. and please protect the Giant.

Sincerely,
Vaughn Clough

I urge you to change your recommendation to WILDERNESS for the ENTIRE Sleeping Giant/ Sheep Creek study area.

The Sleeping Giant and the people of Montana deserve the BEST! Sincerely, Lou Stoffa

Please Let the sleeping Giant
be wilderness. It's very
important to all of us who
are growing up here in
Montana.

Sincerely Darcy
and Colton Switzer

Dear Mr. Rixford,

I am strongly urging the BLM to give the Sleeping Giant the best by changing their recommendation to wilderness for the entire Sleeping Giant/ Sheep Creek study area.

Respectfully yours,
Larry Hauck

MR. RIFORD,

I IMPLORE YOU TO PLEASE
DO ALL YOU CAN TO FREE THE "SLEEPING
GIANT" STATE FROM ANY DEVELOPMENT.
PLEASE DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO
FREE THE GIANT UNDER WILDERNESS
PROTECTION!

I BEG YOU,
Henry Begler

Helena, May 11, 1990

Brad Riford, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

Dear Mr. Riford:

I wish to go on record in support of
wilderness designations for The Sleeping
Giant and Sheep Creek WGA's.

I have a copy of the wilderness/
environmental impact draft prepared by the
Bureau but was unable to complete reading
it until after the original May 9 deadline.

While I respect the intent and objectives
of the non-wilderness management plan, I
believe these areas merit full wilderness
designations and will better serve the
neighboring communities under the protection
thus provided.

Yours truly,
Dorothy Wetzel

PO Box 1644
Helena, MT 59604

1768 Webster # 2
Helena, Mt.
5.11.90

Mr. Riford:

This concerns the Sleeping
Giant-Sheep Creek area
North of our city.

There are four beliefs
that are necessary to achieve
classification & protection.

1. It is an area of
great enough size to be
able to meet future
generations to enjoy natural
resources. This is not
the case. The area is
too small. Development
& exploration, etc.

2. It is an area only
as wilderness designation for
the area. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Dorothy Wetzel

May 14, 1990

Brad Riford
Bureau of Land Management
Box 3388
Butte, MT 59702

Dear Mr. Riford:

Please reconsider your
draft finding recommending
against wilderness status for
the Sleeping Giant area. This
important designation should be
managed as a unit in conjunction
with the Gates of the Mountains.

Thank you.

Mrs. Terry Whelton

May 18

Mr. Rixford

as a Helmer I am
concerned and disappointed
regarding the desire to not
recommend wilderness design-
ation for Sleeping Giant.

This is an area offering
great scenery and habitat for
wildlife and it is located
near to one of Montana's
significant urban areas. This
is not the place for the region
of mining and other develop-
ment.

Sincerely
Wayne Chamberlain

APPENDIX A

OVERVIEW OF THE WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

The wilderness review process developed by the BLM to carry out the wilderness mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA consists of three phases: inventory, study and reporting. Planning requirements for wilderness studies involve the consideration of planning criteria, quality standards and the current resource management plan.

Inventory

The inventory phase identified areas that possess wilderness characteristics, as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964, and designated these as wilderness study areas (WSAs). Guidelines for conducting the inventory were set forth in the BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook of 1978. The final inventory phase was completed for the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs in June 1988. This phase established the 3,967-acre Sheep Creek WSA and increased the Sleeping Giant WSA to 6,487 acres. See the Sheep Creek and Sleeping Giant WSAs Final Inventory Narratives in Appendix B.

Study

The study process will result in a State Director determination of which WSAs will be recommended suitable for wilderness designation and which will not. The study is conducted through the BLM's land use planning process. Wilderness and nonwilderness alternatives and their environmental consequences are documented in this wilderness EIS as an amendment to the existing Headwaters RMP.

The primary sources used to guide this study were the Wilderness Act of 1964, the BLM's planning regulations, and the BLM's final Wilderness Study Policy. The study phase itself includes several key steps which are summarized below and discussed in more detail elsewhere in this document.

Issue Identification

Land use planning is directed at solving problems or, in other words, at resolving issues. An issue may be defined as an opportunity, conflict, problem, or other concern regarding the use or management of public lands and resources. Issues are identified early in the wilderness study process and influence all subsequent steps in the study.

Alternative Formulation

Both NEPA and the BLM planning regulations require the formulation and evaluation of alternatives prior to final decisionmaking. In the context of a wilderness study, this process means that a decision to recommend a WSA for either designation or nondesignation as wilderness is reached only after consideration of several alternative management strategies. Wilderness studies at a minimum address a no wilderness and an all wilderness alternative.

Evaluation of Environmental Consequences

The physical, biological, economic and social effects of implementing each alternative are estimated in order to allow for a comparative evaluation of varying impacts. The particular environmental parameters selected for detailed evaluation are based on appropriate issues identified for each WSA.

Reporting

The reporting phase begins when the BLM State Director forwards the preliminary wilderness recommendation to the BLM Director. The reporting process requires the administrative review by the Director, the Secretary of Interior, and the President. All Section 603 wilderness study recommendations as well as any Section 202 prowilderness recommendations rendered under this study must reach the President no later than October 21, 1991. Nonwilderness recommendations made under Section 202 studies are decided by the State Director. This wilderness study/EIS is scheduled to meet the 1991 deadline.

Congress has the sole authority to designate federal lands as wilderness. Congress will receive applicable recommendations submitted by the President along with other pertinent information and will either legislatively designate WSAs as wilderness or release them for uses other than wilderness management.

Interim Management of Wilderness Study Areas

In the case of WSAs being recommended for nonwilderness

management, the proposed management direction may be inconsistent with the BLM Interim Management Policy for WSAs. The implementation of such direction will be deferred until the State Director or Congress, as applicable, decides on the final wilderness suitability recommendations. WSAs are managed under the Interim Management Policy guidelines so that existing wilderness characteristics documented at the time of the inventory phase are protected until final suitability decisions are made.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING CRITERIA AND QUALITY STANDARDS

Planning criteria and quality standards were developed in the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy based on the issues identified both nationally and locally. This guidance directs the procedures for evaluating the suitability and nonsuitability of each wilderness study area.

Planning Criteria

The planning criteria were used to evaluate wilderness values and manageability.

Evaluation of Wilderness Values

This criterion considered the extent to which each of the following components contributed to the overall values of an area for wilderness purposes.

Mandatory Wilderness Characteristics. This component considered the quality of the area's naturalness, size, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation.

Supplemental Values. This component considered the presence or absence and the quality of optional wilderness characteristics such as ecological or geological features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Multiple Resource Benefits. This component considered the benefits to other resources and uses that would be ensured by wilderness designation of the area.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This component considered the extent to which wilderness designation of the area under study would contribute to expanding the diversity of the National Wilderness Preservation System from the standpoint of three factors:

Expanding the diversity of natural systems and features, as represented by ecosystems and landforms.

Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (5 hours) of major population centers.

Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness.

Manageability

This criterion evaluated how effectively the area could be managed to preserve its wilderness character.

Quality Standards

In addition to the planning criteria, a set of quality standards was developed to ensure consistency:

Energy and Mineral Resource Values. This quality standard considered any identified or potential energy and mineral resource values.

Impacts on Other Resources. This quality standard considered the extent to which other resource values or uses of the area would be forgone or adversely affected as a result of wilderness designation.

Impact of Nondesignation on Wilderness Values. This quality standard considered the alternative use of the land under study if the area is not designated wilderness, and the extent to which the wilderness values of the area would be for gone or adversely affected as a result of this use.

Public Comment. This quality standard considered comments received from interested and affected parties at all levels.

Local, Social, and Economic Effects. This quality standard gave special attention to adverse or favorable social and economic effects that designation of the area would have on local areas.

Consistency with Other Plans. This quality standard considered consistency with officially approved and adopted resource-related plans of other federal agencies, state and local governments, and Indian tribes.

RELATIONSHIP OF THIS WILDERNESS EIS TO THE HEADWATERS RMP/EIS

The Headwaters RMP provides a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating public lands and issue-driven resources in the Headwaters Resource Area. Although the Final RMP/EIS did not consider wilderness designation for

the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs, it did administratively designate the area as an ACEC in 1984.

Since wilderness and the effects of designation were not considered in the current Headwaters RMP/EIS, this wilderness study document and its subsequent management decisions will serve to amend the RMP. This wilderness EIS will fulfill the regulation requirements for all aspects of the resource management planning process as specified in 43 CFR 1601 and in the BLM Planning Regulations Manual, Section 1600. These regulations specifically require that this amendment follow all the steps of the planning process listed in Section 1601.22 of the Manual. The planning steps:

- identification of issues,
- development of planning criteria,
- collection of inventory data,
- analysis of management situation (present resources and management)
- selection of alternatives,
- analysis of alternatives' impacts,
- selection of the preferred alternative (Draft EIS),
- selection of resource management plan (Final EIS),



APPENDIX B

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ISSUE BROCHURE

In August 1988 the Bureau of Land Management released an information and issue brochure announcing the start of the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek Wilderness Study/EIS. The brochure listed a number of preliminary issues to begin the study, requested public comment on those and other issues, and asked for information to update the mailing list. The following lists the issues as they appeared in the brochure.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Proper issue identification is vital to the planning process. Solutions arrived at through planning mean little if they are solutions to the wrong or nonexistent problems.

The section that follows outlines a set of tentative issues we have assembled based on current management policy communications with the public and the ideas of our own resource specialists. We need to know if you agree with us. The issues are not listed in any particular order of importance.

Given the small size of both the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs only two alternatives are tentatively planned for study analysis. The no wilderness alternative, or continuation of ACEC management, and the all wilderness alternative will have many similarities for both designations are oriented toward resource protection. One major difference is that ACEC designations are administrative decisions made through the Resource Management Planning Process while wilderness designations are legislative decisions and can be revised only by Congressional action.

We are asking you to use the enclosed response form and tell us if they are the issues most important to you, and also if there are any we failed to mention.

ISSUE: WILDLIFE

The study areas provide habitat for a variety of wildlife populations. Species that are of special concern in this study include bald eagles, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep.

Are there other wildlife species found in the study areas that merit special concern?

How will wilderness designation affect these principal wildlife species?

What types of wildlife improvement efforts are needed in the foreseeable future to enhance habitat conditions and how will these improvements be influenced by a wilderness vs. an ACEC designation?

ISSUE: RECREATION

People use the Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek area for numerous outdoor recreation activities such as camping, fishing, hunting, nature study and photography, backpacking and horseback riding. The location and terrain have excluded motorized recreation.

Are there other recreational uses occurring within the study areas?

How will these activities be affected by wilderness designation?

ISSUE: RANGE

Most of the study areas are grazed by livestock. Although wilderness designation may restrict range improvements and increases in authorized grazing use, it will not eliminate grazing use. An ACEC designation enables greater management opportunities.

What type of range improvements are needed in the study areas?

Would they be compatible with wilderness designation?

ISSUE: CULTURAL RESOURCES

An abandoned homestead of historical and aesthetic importance exists within the area. Structures associated with this homestead include a three-room framed house, a log cabin, a barn, an outhouse, and a storage shed. These buildings are an important cultural feature and should be preserved.

What actions are needed to stabilize and protect this cultural feature?

Would they be compatible with wilderness designation?

ISSUE: WILDERNESS

Inventory of the two WSAs was completed in June 1988 and both areas were determined to possess wilderness characteristics. These qualities are size, naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation opportunities. The area was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern through the Headwaters Resource Management Plan in 1984.

Should the study areas be designated wilderness or should they remain as an ACEC?

What effects will each designation have on the existing wilderness characteristics?

ISSUE: MINERALS AND ENERGY

Ten placer claims for decorative stone totaling 200 acres, exist within Towhead Gulch. The entire area is also leased for oil and gas. Energy potential is considered to be moderate to high. It is not known at this time if commercial reserves are present.

In addition, approximately 43 percent of the area's mineral rights are privately owned. This means that the Bureau of Land Management could not deny entry or prevent surface impacts associated with exploration and development of these mineral and energy resources.

On those lands where BLM owns the mineral rights, what effect will wilderness designation have on the above resources?

Can the wilderness values of these study areas that have scattered parcels of mineral rights in private ownership, be protected by wilderness designation in perpetuity?

How significant are the slate deposits in Section 8 and what is the potential for increased development?

What is the potential of finding commercial reserves of either oil or gas?

What is the likelihood of exploration and development?

ISSUE: UTILITY CORRIDORS

A 100 KV powerline presently bisects the two WSAs. The lands associated with the 40-foot right-of-way and adjacent maintenance road have been excluded from study consideration. This utility right-of-way grant is effective until the year 2018.

What is the future need for this utility line?

How will any improvement and maintenance needs be affected by wilderness us ACEC management?

ISSUE: ECONOMICS

Local economics currently depend upon grazing, minerals, oil and gas, and recreation. Some of these economically important resources may be heavily restricted while others may be enhanced.

What are the positive and negative effects of wilderness designation to the local economics?

Do these differ significantly from the effects of ACEC designation?

RESPONDENT DATA

A total of 37 responses to the issue-identification brochure were received. Of those respondents, 24 were interested citizens, 5 were representatives of businesses, 3 represented environmental organizations, 2 each were from federal and state agencies, and 2 were from local libraries. Two-thirds of the responses came from Lewis & Clark County and most of the rest came from elsewhere in Montana. Table B summarizes the issue responses by category.

TABLE B
SUMMARY OF ISSUE RELATED RESPONSES

<i>Category</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i># of Responses</i>
Energy & Minerals	Existing rights of oil and gas leaseholders	1
	Oil and gas leasing	2
	Expansion of slate mining	1
	Manageability of private mineral rights	2
	Purchase of private minerals	1
	Directional drilling	1
Boundary Adjustments	Acquisition of adjoining land	2
Powerline	Possibility of relocation	3
	Line maintenance	3
	Use of other existing lines	1
Cultural	Significance of homestead	1
	Future management of homestead	1
Recreation	Use of mountain bikes	1
	Hiking opportunities and trails	2
	Use levels and activities	2
	Use of 4X4 motorized vehicles	1
Water	Water quality	1
	Reservoir management	1
Wilderness	Long-term protection of values	4
	Management under wilderness designation	1
Livestock Grazing	Effect of designation on grazing	1
	Elimination/reduction of grazing	2
	Maintenance of existing improvements	1
Wildlife	Effects on mule deer, elk and black bear	1
	Designation effects on wildlife species	1
Soils	Shoreline erosion abatement	1
Plants	Effects on threatened and endangered species	1
Economic	Designation effects on local economy	1



APPENDIX C
SLEEPING GIANT
ACEC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommended by:

Gary Leppert
Gary Leppert

Headwaters Resource Area Manager

12/28/88

Date

Approved by:

Jim Moorhouse
Jim Moorhouse

Butte District Manager

12.28.88

Date

Introduction

This document provides management guidance for the Sleeping Giant Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The area was nominated and evaluated through the Bureau planning process in the Headwaters Resource Management Plan (RMP). Formal designation was established in July, 1984 when the State Director of Montana signed the Record of Decision for the Headwaters RMP. All of the management actions presented are consistent with the general guidance decisions made in the RMP. This ACEC management plan will remain in effect until the next resource area planning cycle unless a congressional wilderness designation supercedes it. During this period an evaluation of the ACEC plan should be conducted and if needed modifications should be made to meet plan objectives.

Size

The total size of the area is 11,609 acres. See attached ACEC boundary map (Attachment 1).

Location

The ACEC is located in Lewis & Clark County within portions of Townships 13 and 14 North and Ranges 3 and 4 West immediately west of Holter Lake and the Missouri River. Helena is approximately 25 miles south while Great Falls is some 60 miles to the northwest. The Beartooth Ranch State Game Range is located immediately across the river and the U.S. Forest Service Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area is located 1 mile southeast of the ACEC; and the Gates of the Mountains Game preserve is located immediately south. Approximately 120 acres of BLM ACEC land in the east half of Section 13, T. 13 N., R. 3 W. and within the Game Preserve.

Public access is available by boat along the Holter Lake/Missouri River shoreline as well as by vehicle via the Wood Siding Gulch Road which terminates on BLM land near the west boundary of the ACEC.

Background

Initially, the land pattern within the ACEC boundary consisted of scattered parcels of public land totalling about 6,800 acres. The present land pattern has been consolidated through extensive BLM acquisition efforts which involved Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) purchases and two major land exchanges. For further information refer to the Sleeping Giant Land Exchange (1971-1981) and the Binion-Babcock Exchange (1982).

The primary objective for acquiring public lands in this area was to consolidate a manageable area so that the high scenic, recreational and wildlife values could be preserved for public enjoyment and use. This acquisition effort has resulted in approximately 11 miles of public shoreline and adding the entire geologic formation which resembles the profile of a Sleeping Giant to public ownership.

Land Ownership

Surface ownership of the ACEC is entirely federal and under BLM management. Approximately 5,000 acres or 43 percent of the area's sub-surface is not controlled by BLM. There are six private parties that own all of the minerals within 2,800 acres and the oil and gas interests on an additional 2,200 acres. A proposal was included in the FY90 budget request to purchase these mineral interests with L&WCF money. If this fails, consideration should be given to exchange for the mineral ownership within the ACEC boundary using lands outside this ACEC.

Primary Values

The Sleeping Giant ACEC is characterized by steep, irregular topography ranging in elevation from 3600 feet along Holter Lake to 6,792 feet at the summit of Beartooth Mountain. Approximately 50 percent of the area is covered with mixed conifers including ponderosa, limber and lodgepole pine and douglas fir. Cottonwoods and deciduous shrubs are associated with numerous riparian areas within the area.

The non-forested portions are comprised of sedimentary rock ledges, talus slopes, and native grasslands consisting primarily of bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and forbs. The most outstanding feature or landmark of the area is the Sleeping Giant; a formation created by the profile of the Beartooth Mountain and the rock outcroppings of the lower ridgeline that extends towards the Missouri River. This feature trends east-west through the southern portion of the ACEC.

The primary drainages within the area are Rose Gulch, Sheep Creek, Falls Gulch, Towhead Gulch and Beartooth Creek. Watershed values are high, and there are 6 important perennial streams.

The overall terrain is highly natural providing outstanding scenic values within the area. In addition, the off-site vistas of the surrounding landscape is outstanding, with views of the Missouri River, Beartooth Game Range, the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area and numerous distant views of panoramic mountain ranges.

Important wildlife species within the area include bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, bear, mule deer, furbearers, cold water fisheries, (particularly trout), Canada geese, bald eagle, osprey, and other raptors. Recreation opportunities are diverse and include fishing, camping, hiking, horse travel, hunting, nature study, photography, and snowshoeing. An abandoned homestead consisting of a cabin, framed house, barn, outhouse, shed and root cellar exists within the area.

Other important values include 11 miles of Holter Lake/Missouri River shoreline and the presence of the nationally significant Lewis & Clark trail.

Management Objectives

1. Preserve the natural resource values and protect against undue and unnecessary degradation.

2. Preserve the high scenic and visual qualities by ensuring that all management actions comply with the VRM Class II guidelines. See visual management section on page 5.
3. Provide for a wide variety of primitive recreational opportunities that include fishing, camping, hiking, hunting, trapping, horse travel, nature study, and photography in a manner that best ensures public safety and health, resource protection and quality of experience.
4. Preserve, protect and promote wildlife and its habitat for the associated "key" species of elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, osprey, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, waterfowl, and cold water fisheries in accordance with the overall management objectives of the ACEC.

Management and Use Constraints

1. Oil and Gas. Approximately 2,680 acres of federal sub-surface are currently under lease. Although potential for oil and gas deposits within the ACEC is moderate to high, the likelihood of a commercial discovery is considered to be low.

The area will continue to be closed to surface occupancy on all BLM estate where the surface and sub-surface are both public domain. Oil and gas exploration and development of private sub-surface may proceed, but will be mitigated on a case by case basis to the extent possible in order to meet the objectives of this plan.

2. Other Minerals. There are 10 placer claims totalling 200 acres in NW1/4SW1/4 and the NW1/4 of Section 8, R3W, T13N. Mineral potential is considered very low for all minerals except slate. Deposits of this building stone are known to exist only in Towhead Gulch.

Although the potential is very low, locatable and leasable minerals will remain open to all forms of mineral entry except mineral material sales and other disposals under 43 CFR 3600. An approved plan of operations will be required prior to any entry on ACEC lands and an adequate bond required to mitigate projected impacts. Authorized mining activities shall not create unnecessary or undue degradation of the resources; motorized equipment shall be limited to the minimum required; and reclamation measures will require restoration of the disturbed land to a condition that is unobtrusive and as close to its original state as possible.

3. Forestry. All forested lands will continue to be set aside from timber harvest and management. Cutting of trees will only be allowed for valid mining claims, emergency fire suppression, and administrative purposes where authorized improvements to preserve or enhance the objectives of the plan are needed and cannot be reasonably obtained from outside sources. Such cutting within the ACEC shall be conducted away from trails or campsites, and all evidence of cutting reduced to a condition which is unobtrusive to visitors.

Insect and disease control efforts. will not be allowed unless it is needed to protect outside resources or when the loss is significant enough to threaten the management objectives of this plan. Suppression projects will be limited to actions which have the least adverse impact on the natural resources.

Reforestation may be allowed in cases where natural revegetation is inadequate to prevent deterioration of the area's resources or to enhance the primary values of the area. Replanting will be limited to native species and hand labor unless large scale natural disasters occur and motorized equipment proves more practical.

4. Lands. All BLM lands within the ACEC boundary will be retained in BLM ownership. Priority acquisitions needed to enhance the overall values, opportunities and management of the area include all nonfederal sub-surface minerals within the ACEC as well as the following adjoining lands (surface and sub-surface):

T14N, R4W:

Section 26; E1/2W1/2, SE1/4NE1/4
Section 23; E1/2; SW1/4
Section 24; All Private
Section 13; S1/2

T14N, R3W:

Section 19; All
Section 20; All
Section 21; W1/2

T13N, R4W:

Section 1; All

T13N, R3W:

Section 5; All
Section 7; All

In addition to these priority land acquisitions there are two easements that should be acquired which would improve public access to the ACEC as well as promote better visitor distribution within the area. The first easement is along Sheep Creek in Section 14, R4W, T14N, where a road already exists. The second easement is along the Montana Power Company powerline road which leads to the mouth of Towhead Gulch. This easement involves the construction of about .5 miles of road as well as about one mile of hiking trail up the southwest face of Beartooth Mountain in Section 17, R3W, T13N. Both vehicle routes would terminate at trailheads outside the ACEC boundary from which only foot access would be allowed. In addition, administrative access should be obtained up the drainages of Falls Gulch and Towhead Gulch to enhance long-term manageability.

Motorized Access. The entire ACEC will be closed to all motorized vehicles and equipment. A yearlong closure with locked gates will be established at both boundaries of the Falls/Towhead Gulch road. Exceptions to this area closure will be granted for:

- o Access needed to perform valid and authorized mineral operations.
- o Emergency operations in response to situations that threaten the health and safety of people or resources both within the ACEC and on adjoining private lands. Examples are fire suppression, search and rescue missions, etc.
- o Livestock management operations and project improvements that cannot be reasonably accomplished by horseback.
- o Maintenance and improvements associated with the existing MPC powerline and maintenance road in Towhead and Falls Gulches.
- o Authorized activities needed to enhance and preserve plan objectives or to carry out temporary scientific and educational endeavors. Examples include an archaeological excavation of an important or threatened site; chainsaw cutting of selective trees to clear a section of hiking trail or improve fishery habitat, prescribed burns needed to improve/restore habitat conditions, etc.
- o Temporary aircraft landing for authorized activities.
- o Beaching of motor boats along the shoreline.

Visual Resources. In order to protect the high scenic and visual qualities of the ACEC, a Class II VRM rating has been assigned to the area. All future developments, barring grandfathered and existing rights will comply with the objectives and guidelines of this classification. The primary objective of this rating is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Changes to the terrain should have low visual impact. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual user. Changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) affected by an approved activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape as a whole. Temporary impacts may be allowed, provided they are of short duration.

Utility Corridors. Approval of new transmission line corridors shall be avoided and only allowed after all other options have been exhausted. The Falls/Towhead Gulch powerline will continue to be operated and maintained by MPC. The total width of this right-of-way is 40 feet and is not scheduled for renewal until 2018.

The MPC will be allowed to perform needed maintenance of this line in the future. Major improvements will require an amendment of the existing right-of-way and approval will be subject to the Montana Major Facility Siting Act as well as BLM multiple use management. Improvements shall be mitigated so that the objectives of ACEC management are not significantly impacted.

Livestock Grazing: Two grazing allotments blanket the entire ACEC. The Sheep Creek allotment is leased to Phil Wirth and has been placed in a maintenance category: this means that no significant problems/conflicts were identified that involved livestock grazing management. This allotment is comprised of 440 acres of public ACEC land and has an associated grazing capacity of 15 federal AUMs.

The Oxbow allotment is leased to Tim Babcock and has been placed in an Improvement category: this means that significant problems/conflicts were identified relative to livestock grazing and a grazing management plan will be initiated to improve resource conditions. It totals about 11,000 acres of ACEC land and has an authorized grazing capacity of 376 federal AUMs. All suitable lands are actively being grazed with the exception of the Ming Bar parcels in sections 13 and 14 which are permanently deferred.

Livestock grazing will continue as guided by the current Oxbow AMP. Future management will be adjusted to conform with the AMP evaluation which is scheduled for completion in 1989. This evaluation will address the objectives and recommendations presented in this ACEC plan. Increases in livestock numbers or AUM allocations will not be permitted. All maintenance and construction of improvements needed to manage and implement the oxbow AMP will be subject to plan objectives, motorized vehicle and equipment restrictions, Interim Management Policy (IMP) guidelines for lands under wilderness review and the VRM Class II guidelines.

Use of motorized vehicles will be allowed on a 'case-by-case' basis to perform livestock management activities that exceed the practical and reasonable limits of horse or foot usage. Allowable uses include emergency feeding; retrieval of sick cattle; fence and spring construction projects where heavy materials need to be transported. Routine allotment supervision and maintenance of developments will be conducted on foot or horseback.

Livestock grazing in portions of the Oxbow allotment has impacted important resource values within the ACEC. The primary reason is due to the area's steep terrain which restricts cattle movement throughout the allotment. As a result of this limiting characteristic, large numbers of cattle are concentrating in preferred areas for long durations. Heavy utilization in these areas has reduced vegetative composition and vigor both within riparian areas as well as on adjacent grassland benches. Other associated impacts include soil compaction, streambank and lakeshore erosion and decreased water absorption characteristics. The two areas needing immediate attention are the Falls Gulch drainage and the benchland extremity of the Jackson Peak peninsula. Other extensive impacts associated with cattle grazing include deterioration of campsite quality and direct conflicts with campers along the shoreline.

In order to correct some of these problems the Oxbow AMP was written and approved in 1986. Although implementation of this 3-pasture, rest rotation system will promote better cattle distribution it will not resolve visitor camping conflicts or concerns associated with the Jackson Peak peninsula. As a means to enhance the primary management objectives of this plan, the Oxbow AMP will be evaluated in 1989 with recommendations to eliminate or reduce shoreline grazing conflicts in mind. For more specific guidance see the ACEC related recommendations in the Oxbow AMP.

Recreation. The area provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, horse travel, hunting, trapping, nature study, photography, and snowshoeing. These diverse opportunities will continue to be provided with the minimum amount of restrictions possible. Heavily used areas will be monitored to ensure against unnecessary and undue resource damage and wildlife disturbance. Visitor management techniques (both direct and indirect) will be utilized within the ACEC as needed to preserve both the resource values and the visitor's quality of experience and opportunities.

The construction of facilities and improvements such as trails, signs, fences, fire rings, chemical pit toilets, etc. will be provided only as required to preserve resource values, enhance the visitor's natural experience and to ensure the health and safety of people. Facilities and improvements will not be provided simply for the comfort and convenience of visitors.

Continuation, maintenance and removal of developments will be generally accomplished using primitive means. Motorized vehicles and equipment will only be used when other alternatives prove unreasonable and impractical.

Foot trails may be designed and built at some future date where needed to disperse visitor use, provide for safety, preserve resource values and enhance the quality of the user's experience. Access to the proposed and existing trail system will be limited to foot and horseback. Trail heads will be constructed near the boundaries of the ACEC to accommodate vehicle parking and to promote visitor disbursement.

Trail routes will be selected to provide users with a variety of scenery and resource opportunities including scenic vistas, wildlife observation points, vegetative screening, shade, stream reaches, etc. Trails should follow natural contours as much as possible, not be highly visible and create minimum disturbances to soil, ground cover and wildlife. Trail specifications and standards will be established in the project plan. Use of mountaineering bikes will not be allowed within the ACEC as they are mechanized devices not considered to be compatible with primitive forms of recreation. In addition, use would be heavily restricted given the area's vegetative and topographic characteristics.

Signing within the ACEC will be limited to that which is needed to inform users, enhance resource preservation awareness, provide for public safety, and regulate behavior. Foreseeable signs needed include:

- An interpretive sign will be installed at the Homestead site to enhance historical awareness.

- Boundary signs will be posted as needed.

- Trail markers will be installed at junctions.

-Trail head bulletin signs will display topographic maps of the ACEC with trails and regulations as required.

Camping along the shoreline and within the ACEC area will be allowed to continue unrestricted, provided resource conditions are not degraded beyond the limits of acceptable change. Campsites will remain as primitive as possible. These sites will be policed by the permanent seasonal at the Holter Lake Campground. A "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" concept will be promoted. Improvised camp structures, such as docks, will be removed when found.

Improvements to protect and enhance the resources may be installed/constructed on an as needed basis. Examples are chemical pit toilets, fire rings, terraced tent spots, native tree planting and fencing. Designated camping and stabilization improvements may be imposed if needed to prevent resource degradation from overuse. Firewood cutting will be limited to dead and down material.

No outfitter and guide hunting permits will be authorized within the ACEC given its limited size, relatively low populations of huntable wildlife species, lack of access and inability to adequately disperse hunters.

A bulletin board will be erected at the Holter Lake Campground with maps and pertinent information to educate the public about the management objectives and recreational opportunities available within the ACEC.

Cultural. The only known cultural site of importance is the homestead in Section 2, R3W, T13N. The site consists of a log cabin, framed house, barn, shed and root cellar. The structures will be protected from future livestock related degradation with a perimeter jack-leg and rail fence. An interpretive sign will be installed to educate the public and enhance historical awareness.

A feasibility study will be conducted at the homestead to decide if preservation/restoration work should be conducted and if so to what degree.

If other important sites are discovered, excavation may be permitted provided all disturbances are fully reclaimed. Motorized equipment and vehicles will be limited to that which is essential.

Wilderness. The majority of the ACEC is currently under wilderness review and therefore subject to IMP guidelines. Impairing actions will not be allowed unless grandfathered or valid existing rights prevail until a no wilderness designation is finalized by Congress or the State Office. Wilderness values will be preserved to the extent either IMP guidelines, or this ACEC management plan dictate.

Fish and Wildlife. The "key" wildlife species to be managed for include; mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, osprey, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, waterfowl and cold water fisheries. Management will strive to perpetuate a natural distribution, number and interaction of healthy indigenous species of fish and wildlife. Habitat manipulation and other human influences will be allowed to maintain desired populations of key wildlife species, promote threatened, endangered or sensitive species, enhance fishery habitat, control disease epidemics or other health hazards in which wildlife species are involved as carriers.

Hunting, fishing and trapping will continue subject to state and federal laws and regulations. The southeast extremity of the ACEC in the El/2, Sec. 13, R3W, T13N which is within the Gates of the Mountains Game Preserve will remain closed to hunting and fishing. Introduction of new exotics will not be permitted. Habitat improvement projects will be subject to VRM Class II guidelines, IMP guidelines and ACEC management objectives. The use of motorized vehicles will be restricted to the minimum amount essential to perform needed project work.

Habitat improvement projects may include exclosures, prescribed burns, native plant seeding, water source developments, etc. Riparian exclosures will be limited and allowed only in cases where alternatives in grazing management cannot be established to adequately protect resource values.

Fire. The general policy for the ACEC will be "active suppression" regardless of cause. Fire management modification will be considered when the Resource Area Fire Plan is written. During the interim all wild fires will be suppressed immediately upon notification. In order to minimize long-term environmental impacts, the use of motorized vehicles will be restricted unless required to save human life, off-site property or key wildlife habitat. All fire fighting efforts within the ACEC will be assigned a resource advisor from the Headwaters Resource Area.

All fire related structures shall be removed upon completion of use and the site rehabilitated so as natural a state as possible. All vegetative reseedling will be done with native species or tame ecotypes.

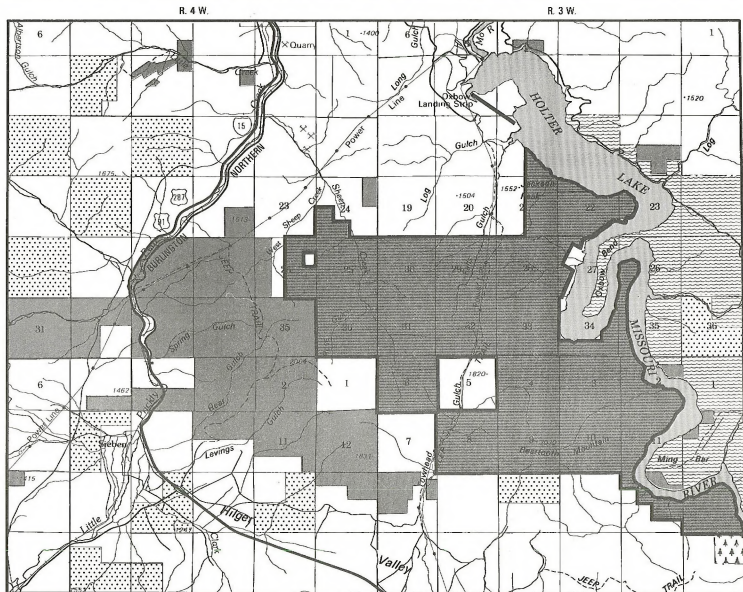
Prescribed fires will only be allowed to improve important wildlife habitat for which declining populations of a key species are dependent. These fires will be subject to visual and aesthetic constraints. Use of motorized equipment will be restricted to the minimum absolutely essential.

Noxious Weeds. Control of noxious weeds will be conducted by chemical or biological means. Control efforts will be conducted so that no serious adverse impacts occur to the resources. Nonmotorized control activities will be used wherever practical. The Headwaters Noxious Weed Control plan will provide guidance for control efforts.

Water and Soils. Watershed restoration may be undertaken where soils, vegetative cover and hydrologic conditions have deteriorated to the point that resource values both in and out of the ACEC are seriously threatened. Vegetative planting will be authorized provided there is no reasonable expectation of natural regeneration and only native or naturalized species are used.

Motorized vehicles within the ACEC will only be used in situations where foot and horse travel cannot reasonably accomplish the project objectives. Individual tree cutting to create soil catchments or retention dams will be allowed where soil losses threaten resource values as is the case along portions of the shoreline where banks are eroding from wave actions, fluctuations in water levels and cattle usage.

Monitoring. Resource monitoring will be routinely conducted to ensure that the objectives of the ACEC plan are being met.

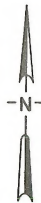


- BLM
- Private
- State

- State Game Range
- Forest Service
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

SLEEPING GIANT AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN



APPENDIX D

WILDERNESS INVENTORIES

WILDERNESS INVENTORY WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands):

MT-075-111A

Areas/Island name: Sleeping Giant

District: Butte State: Montana

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? X yes ___no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? X yes ___no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X yes ___no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? X yes ___no

B Resulting map.

Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, and boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENDATION

Check one:

- ☐ Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
- ☐ Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
- ☒ A portion of the area(s) or island(s) is approved as a WSA for further study and will be reported to the President. The restrictions imposed by Section 603 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV APPROVAL

A. District Manager: [Signature]

Date: Aug 6 1981

B. State Director: [Signature]

Date: _____

WILDERNESS INTENSIVE INVENTORY
SLEEPING GIANT

Unit Number: MT-075-111
Unit Name: Sleeping Giant

I. SIZE

Narrative: The Sleeping Giant Unit originally consisted of eleven parcels of public land totaling 6,858 acres, as stated in the Situation Evaluation of September 1979. Since public ownership at that time was found not to comprise 5,000 acres or more of contiguous land, the area was removed from further wilderness review because it did not satisfy the required size criteria. The Situation Evaluation further explained that these lands would be subject to intensive inventory, along with any additional lands obtained through the consolidation efforts of the proposed land exchange.

As a result of the Sleeping Giant exchange completed in March 1981, the area now totals 12,576 acres of contiguous public land. This figure does not reflect the three inholdings of private land, which total 1,204 acres.

The unit is bounded on the north and south by private and state land, on the west by private land only, and on the east by private land and the Missouri River. It is directly southwest of Holter Lake, roughly midway between Helena and Great Falls.

Public access to the area is by boat along the 11 miles of river shoreline. Access into the unit from the north, west, and south can be achieved only through private roads with the consent of the landowner.

Three major boundary reductions were made during the intensive inventory. The first removed 1,460 acres of public land and 577 acres of inholdings in the southwest extremity of the unit when a narrow corridor (88 yards wide) was created between the overlapping corners of Sections 6 and 12 in T13N between R3W and R4W. The rationale for dropping the acreage was based on the lack of outstanding opportunities afforded to users through this narrow corridor.

The second reduction removed 4,465 acres of public land and two inholdings totaling 626 acres in the western portion of the unit. This land was removed because it comprised less than 5,000 acres and because a power line and its associated maintenance road bisect the area north and south (see photos 1 and 2).

These significant natural impacts enter the unit along Towhead Gulch in T13N, R3W, through Sections 8 and 5, and continue into T14N, R3W, through Sections 32 and 29, leaving the unit through Falls Gulch.

The third boundary change eliminated 539 acres of public land in the southeast portion of the unit, where a narrow finger extends outside the bulk of the area along the Missouri River. This narrow configuration does not offer outstanding opportunities to potential wilderness seekers because it lacks screening; consequently, these lands were removed. This finger of land is in Sections 13 and 14, T13N, R3W.

The result of these boundary changes is a reduction in the total size of the Sleeping Giant Unit to approximately 6,112 acres. The newly formed boundaries of the unit are as follows:

The western boundary coincides with the power line and its associated road right-of-way through Sections 29 and 32 until it meets private land in Section 5 in T13N, R3W. The boundary then follows around Section 5 until it rejoins the right-of-way in Section 8. It continues approximately 1/2 mile to the line between Sections 7 and 8, where it then proceeds 1/3 mile to the southwest corner of the unit.

The southern boundary extends eastward along the southern lines of Sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 to the Missouri River in T13N, R3W. The eastern boundary proceeds north along the shores of the river through Sections 11 and 2, T13N, R3W, and Sections 35, 26, and 34, T14N, R3W, to where it meets private land in the SE1/4 Section 34. From this point, the boundary, which coincides with that of private land, goes west across Section 34, then north along the line between Sections 33 and 34, and on through Section 27 to where it rejoins the river in T14N, R3W. The boundary continues northeast along the river shore through Sections 27 and 22, and around the peninsula in Section 23 of the northeast corner of the unit.

The northern boundary continues from the peninsula along the shore of Holter Lake through Section 22 to where it meets the line between Sections 21 and 22, T14N, R3W. From this point the border extends south along the above line, then east following the northern edges of Sections 28 and 29 to the power line and road right-of-way at the northwest corner.

SUMMARY: Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or fit one of the size exceptions specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook?

/ X / Yes

/ / No

Signature: Brentley R. Ruppel

Date: 8/1/81

Signature: Richard G. Ruppel

Date: 8/6/81

II. NATURALNESS

Narrative: The Sleeping Giant Unit is characterized by steep, irregular topography ranging in elevation from 3,578 feet along the Missouri River to 6,792 feet at the summit of Beartooth Mountain. The area is dominated by a north-south ridge and another, perpendicular east-west trending ridge. In this area are numerous steep and narrow U-shaped valleys leading down toward the river to the east, Falls Gulch to the north, Beartooth Creek to the south, and Towhead Gulch and Sheep Creek to the west (see photos 3, 4, 5, and 6).

The most outstanding feature of the area is the Sleeping Giant, a formation created by the profile of the Beartooth Mountain and the rock outcroppings of the lower ridgeline (see photos 7 and 8). This mountain range trends east-west through the southern portion of the unit.

Approximately 50% of the area is covered by stands of ponderosa pine, limber pine, Douglas-fir, and lodgepole pine, depending on aspect and elevation. The rest is characterized by ponderosa pine savannas, grasslands, rock outcroppings, and talus slopes (see photos 9, 10, 11, and 12).

The shoreline along Holter Lake and the upper Missouri River meanders for approximately 8-1/2 miles. Frontage lands vary from gentle, grassy slopes to rocky cliffs (see photos 13 and 14).

The revised boundary of the Sleeping Giant Unit encloses an area that is almost completely natural. At the summit of Beartooth Mountain there are four small prospect pits (see photo 15) and an "H" made of slate that appears to have been designed to be visible from the air (see photo 16). Neither of these features is very prominent or noticeable, and their impact is extremely small.

A nonfunctional fence line exists in the S1/2 of Section 22, T14N, R3W. It extends for approximately 1/2 mile and consists of fallen posts and missing wire. Its influence upon the area is marginal (see photo 17).

There is an old homestead with a cabin, a livestock barn, an outhouse, and a storage shed in the NE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 2, T13N, R3W (see photo 18). These buildings, which are in an unnamed drainage bottom among trees, are visible only from nearby; thus, the old homestead has little overall impact on the unit.

A few weathered stumps within some of the timbered stands suggest a small amount of past selective cutting. Because they are screened by encompassing vegetation, these stumps are only visible upon direct encounter.

Along the accessible shorelines of the river are numerous primitive campsites typified by a fire ring and flattened, grassy tent sites. The most significant campsite consists of three terraces that have been hand excavated for tent sites (see photos 19 and 20). These imprints, too, have little impact because of their low visibility.

Offsite impacts visible from various locations in the unit include boats and cottages along the river, as well as the lower line and its associated maintenance road. This right-of-way now forms the west boundary of the unit (see photos 21 and 1). In summary, the newly bounded Sleeping Giant Unit generally appears to have been affected by the forces of nature, with the imprints of human work essentially unnoticeable. It is an area where the earth and its community of life are substantially untrammelled by humans and their activities.

SUMMARY: Does the area or island generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

/ X / Yes

/ / No

Signature: _____

Franklin R. Rishel

Date: _____

8/6/81

Signature: _____

Richard E. Howard

Date: _____

8/6/81

III. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

A. Solitude

Narrative: The steep, irregular topography and forested slopes provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. The many drainages provide numerous opportunities for visitors to avoid the sights and sounds of other visitors in the unit (see photos 14, 22, and 23). The Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine forests provide vegetative screening (photos 9 and 24), which helps to conceal visitors from one another and to muffle sounds.

There are enough drainages to help disperse visitors and to avoid any pronounced corridor effect. Cross-country travel along the ridges is also possible, and this further aids in dispersing visitors. The ponderosa pine savannas and open areas along the river (see photos 13 and 25) are also ideal for cross-country travel. Some outside sights and sounds have a minor impact on the opportunities for solitude in the unit--these are the private lands and summer home development in Sections 27 and 34 of T14N, R3W (see photos 21 and 26) and the sounds of motorboats on the Missouri River. Neither of these has a significant impact on the opportunities for solitude in the unit.

SUMMARY: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

/ X / Yes / / No

Signature: Brendley R. Smith

Date: 8/1/81

Signature: Richard G. Moad

Date: 8/6/81

B. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Narrative: Because of the diverse physical characteristics of the unit, there are many opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. These activities range from winter sports such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing to water-based activities such as fishing and swimming. Hunting, backpacking, hiking, and horse travel are available, as is nature study, particularly wildlife viewing. The shoreline provides numerous primitive campsites (see photo 19) that are used by river recreationists. While none of these activities is of outstanding quality by itself, the diverse activities combine to provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation as a whole.

SUMMARY: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

/ X / Yes / / No

Signature: Brendley R. Smith

Date: 8/1/81

Signature: Richard G. Moad

Date: 8/6/81

V. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION.

Narrative: Neither the power line nor the houses could feasibly be removed by hand labor. However, the power line has been excluded from the boundary and the houses do not have a significant impact. The vehicle way might return to a natural condition through natural processes, but only after a very long period of time. The prospect pits and the slate "H" on top of Beartooth Mountain could be returned to an essentially natural condition with the use of hand labor only. The homestead will continue to decay over time and will become less noticeable.

SUMMARY: If the area were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced either by natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

/ X / Yes

/ / No

Signature: Bradley English

Date: 5/6/81

Signature: Richard E. Ward

Date: 5/6/81

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: The dominant geological feature of this unit is the Sleeping Giant configuration formed by Beartooth Mountain and an adjacent westward mountain when viewed from the south (see photos 10 and 27).

The unit also provides the user with spectacular panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains, in particular the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area to the southeast (see photo 28) and the Missouri River to the east (see photo 29). In addition, there are populations of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, deer, black bears, and ospreys that can be seen in the area (see photo 30).

SUMMARY: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

/ X / Yes

/ / No

Signature: Bradley English

Date: 5/6/81

Signature: Richard E. Ward

Date: 5/6/81

 BLM
  State Game Range
 Private
  Forest Service
 State

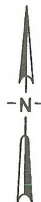
0 1 2 3

Scale in miles

**SLEEPING GIANT
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
MT-075-111A**

T. 14 N.

T. 13 N.



A
SECTION 202
FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA)

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

FINAL DECISION

I. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands):
MT-075-111A

Areas/Island name: Jackson Peak Add-on

District: Butte State: Montana

II. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? X yes ___no
2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? X yes ___no
3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? X yes ___no
4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? X yes ___no

B Resulting map.

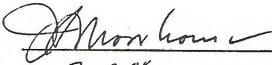
Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, and boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

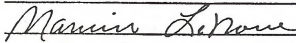
III. RECOMMENDATION

Check one:

- X Area or island is approved for inclusion to the Sleeping Giant WSA.
___ Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
___ A portion of the area(s) or island(s) is approved as a WSA for further study and will be reported to the President.

IV APPROVAL

A. District Manager: 
Date: 2-10-88

B. State Director: 
Date: 2/26/88

Wilderness Intensive Inventory

Unit Number: MT-075-111A

Unit Name: Sleeping Giant (Jackson
Peak Add-on)

I. SIZE

Narrative: The Jackson Peak add-on to the Sleeping Giant WSA totals 375 acres. This area was acquired through the Binion-Babcock Land Exchange in 1982 and thereby gained eligibility for wilderness consideration after the original Sleeping Giant inventory was completed in 1981.

This unit is bounded on the east and south by public land, on the west by private land, and on the north by Holter Lake. It is located about two miles south of Holter Lake Dam. Helena is approximately 30 miles south while Great Falls is some 60 miles northeast. Public access to this add-on is available by boat along the Holter Lake shoreline as well as through the west portion of the Sleeping Giant ACEC via the Wood Siding Gulch Road.

Although the area does not stand by itself, its acreage, when added to the 6,112-acre, Sleeping Giant WSA, is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The combined acreage of the two areas is now 6,487 acres. See the Jackson Peak add-on map.

Summary: Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or meet one of the size exceptions specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bradley Riefel

Date

11/10/87

II. NATURALNESS

Narrative: The Jackson Peak add-on is highly natural in character. The only sign of man's past presence is a crude telephone line strung between scattered trees bisecting the parcel. The line runs from private land in Section 27 to the Oxbow ranch area. It is no longer serviceable as it is cut and down along the Falls Gulch drainage.

This parcel consists of the east side of Jackson peak as well as a major ridgeline peak in the SE 1/4 of Section 21. Slopes throughout are quite steep averaging about 50 percent. Elevations vary from 3,600 feet along the shoreline of the lake to 4,897 feet at the highest peak.

Approximately half of the area is forested with ponderosa pine, limber pine and Douglas fir. The remaining land is represented by native grasses and scattered rock outcrops.

Numerous primitive campsites exist along the shoreline of the add-on unit. The site of most importance is located within a stand of Ponderosa pine in the southern extremity.

Distant views of the lake and surrounding landscape are very scenic overall despite the boat traffic and developments along the far shoreline. A view of the summer dwellings to the south in Sections 27 and 34 can also be noticed on occasion.

Summary: Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature Bruce R. Ruffel

Date 4/15/87

III. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

A. Solitude

Narrative: The Jackson Peak add-on in conjunction with the Sleeping Giant WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. The vegetative and topographic screening within the northeast drainages enable visitors to experience a feeling of being alone. This add-on combined with the existing WSA, clearly offers outstanding opportunities for solitude given the overall abundance of secluded spots.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Brendy Riefel

Date

11/18/87

B.. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Narrative: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are the same as the rest of the Sleeping Giant WSA due to similarities in topography, vegetation, shoreline, and wildlife. Recreation uses include fishing, swimming, hunting, backpacking, day hiking, horse travel, nature study and photography. These diverse activities create outstanding opportunities for primitive forms of recreation.

Summary: Does the area have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Brendy Riefel

Date

11/18/87

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: Scenic views of the Sleeping Giant formation, Holter Lake/Missouri River, the Beartooth Game Range and the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area from the unit are significant. In addition, populations of deer, elk, bighorn sheep, black bears, osprey, golden eagles, and bald eagles utilize the unit.

Summary: Does the area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature Brendly Righel

Date 11/15/87

V. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative: The telephone line which is no longer of service should be removed. Once this is done, the unit will appear totally natural.

Summary: If the area or island were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature Brendly Righel

Date 11/15/87

FINAL DECISION ANALYSIS

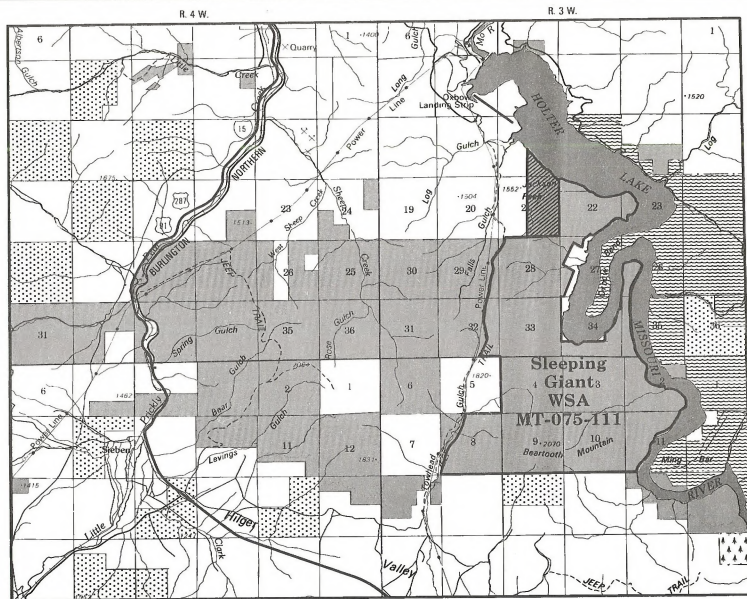
VI. Summary of Public Comments

Twelve public comments specific to the Jackson Peak Add-on were received. Ten of these letters agreed with the proposed decision while two did not. Rationale cited for supporting the addition were the unit's high wilderness characteristics, proximity to Helena and Great Falls, added shoreline protection and increased opportunities for non-motorized recreation.

Those opposing further study expressed concerns about opposite shoreline development, boat and airplane traffic, and potential restrictions that wilderness would have on the Holter dam operation as well as flexibility in locating further transmission lines.

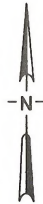
VII. Final Decision and Rationale

The unit will be included with the existing Sleeping Giant WSA and studied for wilderness potential. This area meets all the criteria found in Section 2c of the 1964 Wilderness Act and the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook. Consideration of resource concerns beyond the scope of this inventory process will be made during the study phase.



T. 14 N.

T. 13 N.



- | | |
|---|---|
|  BLM |  State Game Range |
|  Private |  Forest Service |
|  State |  Jackson Peak Inventory Unit |

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

**JACKSON PEAK ADD-ON
MT-075-111A**

A
SECTION 202
FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA)

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
WILDERNESS SUMMARY SHEET

FINAL DECISION

1. LOCATION

Inventory unit No. (area or island, grouping of areas or islands):
MT-075-111B

Areas/Island name: Sheep Creek

District: Butte State: Montana

11. SUMMARY:

A. Results of wilderness characteristics analysis.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Does the area or island appear to be natural? | <u>X</u> yes <u> </u> no |
| 2. Does the area or island offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type recreation? | <u>X</u> yes <u> </u> no |
| 3. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? | <u>X</u> yes <u> </u> no |
| 4. Does the area or island have supplemental values? | <u>X</u> yes <u> </u> no |

B. Resulting map.

Attach a map showing inventory unit, roads, area with possibility of returning to a natural state, and boundary of wilderness study area (WSA).

III. RECOMMENDATION:

Check one:

- Area or island should be approved as a WSA.
 Area or island does not qualify for wilderness study.
X A portion of the area(s) or island(s) is approved as a WSA for further study and will be reported to the President. The IMP restrictions imposed by Section 202 will no longer apply (reference to map) on the remainder of the area.

IV. APPROVAL

A. District Manager: *J. Monahan*

Date: 2-10-88

B. State Director: *Martin L. Brown*

Date: 2/26/88

Wilderness Intensive Inventory

Unit Number: MT-075 111B

Unit Name: Sheep Creek

I. SIZE

Narrative: The Sheep Creek unit gained eligibility for wilderness review under Section 202 of FLPMA due to the successful completion of land exchange efforts which ultimately consolidated an area of more than 5,000 acres of public split-estate land. Sections 25 and 36 in T. 14 N., R. 4 W., and Sections 29 and 31 in T. 14 N., R. 3 W., were acquired through the Sleeping Giant Exchange (1971-1981). Sections 27 and 35 in T. 14 N., R. 4 W., were obtained through the Wirth Exchange (1985). Section 3 and portions of Sections 10, 11 and 13 in T. 13 N., R. 4 W.; a portion of Section 34 in T. 14 N., R. 4 W.; and a portion of Section 18 in T. 13 N., R. 3 W., were acquired through the Sieben Exchange (1987).

The original Sheep Creek inventory unit totals 10,925 acres of public land. The boundaries of the area also include two parcels of private land totalling 617 acres. See the Sheep Creek map. The area is bounded by private land and the Towhead/Falls Gulch powerline on the east; by the Interstate 15 Frontage Road and private land to the west; and by private and state land to the north and south.

The Sheep Creek unit is located immediately west of the Sleeping Giant WSA and is separated due to the presence of the Towhead/Falls Gulch powerline and maintenance road. The area lies about four miles southwest of Holter Lake. Helena is 25 miles to the south while Great Falls is about 60 miles to the northeast. Public access to the unit is available from the east along the Missouri River and from the west via the Wood Siding Gulch Road which originates from the Interstate 15 Frontage Road in Section 33 of T. 14 N., R. 4 W.

Four major boundary reductions were made during the intensive inventory in the west half of the area. These modifications reduced the total size of the unit to less than 5,000 acres. See the Sheep Creek map.

The first reduction removed 495 acres of public land from the northwest corner of the unit. This extremity was eliminated due to the presence of the Holter Dam/Helena powerline and its associated maintenance road.

The second reduction totalling 2,666 acres of public land, occurred in the western portion. The rationale for removing this acreage is based on the existence of a road that extends from the above-mentioned powerline to Levings Gulch and ultimately, Interstate 15.

The third modification removed an additional 2,443 acres of public land and a private section totalling 577 acres in the southwest corner of the area. This acreage was excluded due to the presence of a road leading into Section 1 which represents legal and needed access into this private inholding; and the extremely narrow corridor of public land between Sections 6 and 12.

The fourth reduction totalling 1,354 acres of public land and a 40-acre private inholding occurred in the northcentral portion of the unit. This land was removed due to natural impacts (see Naturalness section) and an irregular land pattern with poorly identified topographic boundaries.

The net result of these boundary modifications reduce the total size of the Sheep Creek Inventory Unit to 3,967 acres of public surface land. See the Sheep Creek map and legend.

This 3,967 acre residual unit meets the size requirement due to strong public support received during the Intensive Inventory comment period and is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use as a wilderness area.

In order to ensure the continual preservation of the high scenic, wildlife and recreational values inherent to these lands, the BLM designated the area as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in 1983.

The remaining narratives presented in this intensive inventory document with the exception of Naturalness, will only discuss the residual, 3,967-acre unit.

Summary: Does the area have at least 5,000 acres of contiguous land or meet one of the size exceptions specified on page 12 of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bentley R. Smith

Date

5/8/88

II. NATURALNESS

Narrative: The Sheep Creek residual unit is characterized by steep, irregular topography ranging in elevation from 4,080 feet along Sheep Creek to 6,771 feet at the highest peak in Section 2. The core of the area is defined by the intersection of Rose Gulch and Sheep Creek drainages. Perennial streams and a vast array of riparian vegetation exist along the bottoms of these two drainages.

Approximately 50 percent of the unit is forested with stands of Douglas fir, Ponderosa, limber and lodgepole pine. The non-forested areas are comprised of rock ledges, talus slopes, forbes, and native grasslands consisting of bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, etc.

The western portion of the original unit is heavily impacted with signs of past firefighting activity, timber cutting, contour terraces and an extensive grid of interconnecting trails and roads. A powerline also runs through the northwestern extremity of the area. Approximately 200 acres of contour terraces were constructed as a means of preparing the more productive sites for seedling establishment in response to the Sieben fire. Fire break lines created by bulldozer are readily apparent throughout Section 35. In addition, roads and trails traverse the entire west side of the area. The cumulative effects of these disturbances do significantly degrade the naturalness of this west portion and for this primary reason, these lands were removed from further review.

The 3,967-acre eastern portion to the contrary is very pristine and appears to be unaffected by past human activity. No significant impacts were noticed during the field inventory. Offsite influences include the powerline and associated maintenance road to the east. Distant sights of ranching activity and Interstate Highway 15 are noticeable but not obtrusive. Offsite impacts are minimal and do not significantly detract from the natural qualities of the remaining area.

Overall, the east portion of the unit is highly natural in character and do not exhibit noticeable signs of past human activity.

Summary: Does the residual area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bradley Rignall

Date

11/13/87

III. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION

A. Solitude

Narrative: Despite its small size, the residual area does provide outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its scattered patches of forest vegetation and its irregular topography with dissecting drainages. These screening qualities enable visitors to easily avoid the sights and sound of others. The feeling of isolation is readily sensed within the densely, vegetated drainages of both Sheep Creek and Rose Gulch. Mixtures of open and timbered areas exist along the upper slopes allowing visitors the opportunity to both avoid one another as well as appreciate the spectacular distant views. These panoramic views of offsite mountain ranges and valleys enhance, rather than inhibit, a person's realization that he or she is alone. The immediate off-site intrusions described under Naturalness do not significantly degrade the area's opportunities for solitude.

Summary: Does the residual area have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bessley Riffel

Date

11/18/87

B. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Narrative: The area's irregular topography; varied vegetation, excellent wildlife diversity; and overall ability to disperse visitor use enable outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Activities available range from winter snowshoe climbing to spring and summer hiking, backpacking, and horse travel to fall hunting for a variety of big game species. Wildlife observation, camping and nature photography comprise other recreation opportunities.

While none of these activities is considered to be of outstanding quality, the overall diversity of these recreational opportunities is outstanding.

Summary: Does the residual area have outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bessley Riffel

Date

11/18/87

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES

Narrative: Supplemental values consist of numerous scenic vistas and the diversity of wildlife populations including mule deer, elk, black bear, mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

Summary: Does the residual area contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bruce R. Ruffel

Date

11/15/87

IV. POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN AREAS RETURNING TO A NATURAL CONDITION

Narrative: There are no human impacts within the 3,967-acre unit which need to be returned to a natural condition.

Summary: If the area were to become a wilderness area, could the imprint of man's work be reduced by either natural processes or by hand labor to a level judged to be substantially unnoticeable?

(X) YES

() NO

Signature

Bruce R. Ruffel

Date

11/15/87

FINAL DECISION ANALYSIS

VI. Summary of Public Comments

Thirty-seven public comments addressed the Sheep Creek Unit. Of these, 34 disagreed with the proposed decision to remove the area from further study while only three were supportive.

The vast majority of the responses advocated that the Sheep Creek residual area (3,967 acres) be studied in conjunction with the Sleeping Giant WSA despite the presence of the MPC powerline and associated maintenance road. Many stated that they did not believe this dividing intrusion to be obtrusive or significantly noticeable within the area as a whole.

Rationale cited for recommending further study was that despite the area's small size, it is manageable, does compliment the Sleeping Giant WSA, and possesses outstanding wilderness characteristics as well as exceptional supplemental values. Other reasons for favoring study were the area's accessibility, proximity to Helena and Great Falls and that present management as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern does not ensure permanent protection.

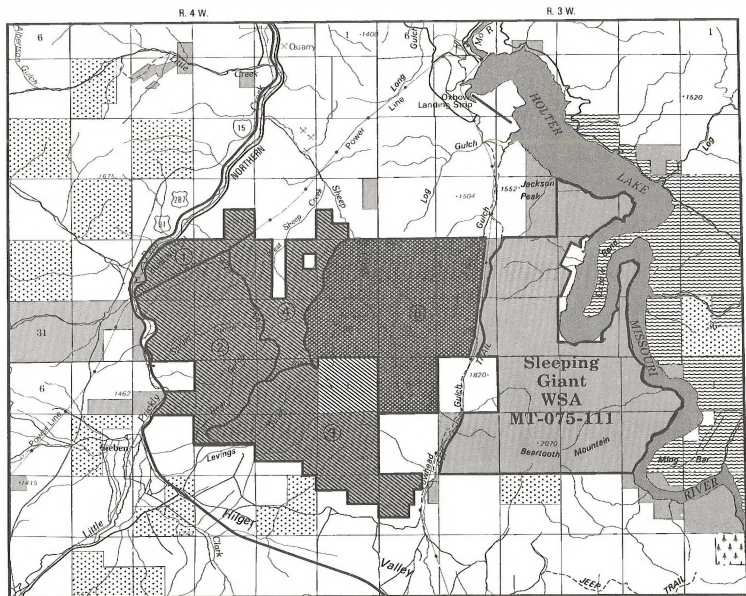
Seven responses supported acquisition of the three Babcock sections (1, 5 and 7) to the south and further requested that these lands be included in the study. Other individual responses advocated acquisition of additional lands to the north, relocation of the powerline, and finally, modification of the NW boundary to include all public land in Sections 24 and 25.

Those opposing further study stated that the residual unit did not meet the size criteria, was already an ACEC, contained split-estate lands, and that there had been some off site mining in the Sheep Creek drainage. Additional concerns were expressed about potential restrictions to livestock grazing as well as the ability to maintain and improve the existing powerline and maintenance road.

VII. Final Decision and Rationale

The Sheep Creek residual area (3,967 acres) will be studied for wilderness suitability despite its size due to strong public support and its ability to be used and managed in an unimpaired condition. The area's split-estate ownership coupled with its mineral potential will be a critical issue during the study.

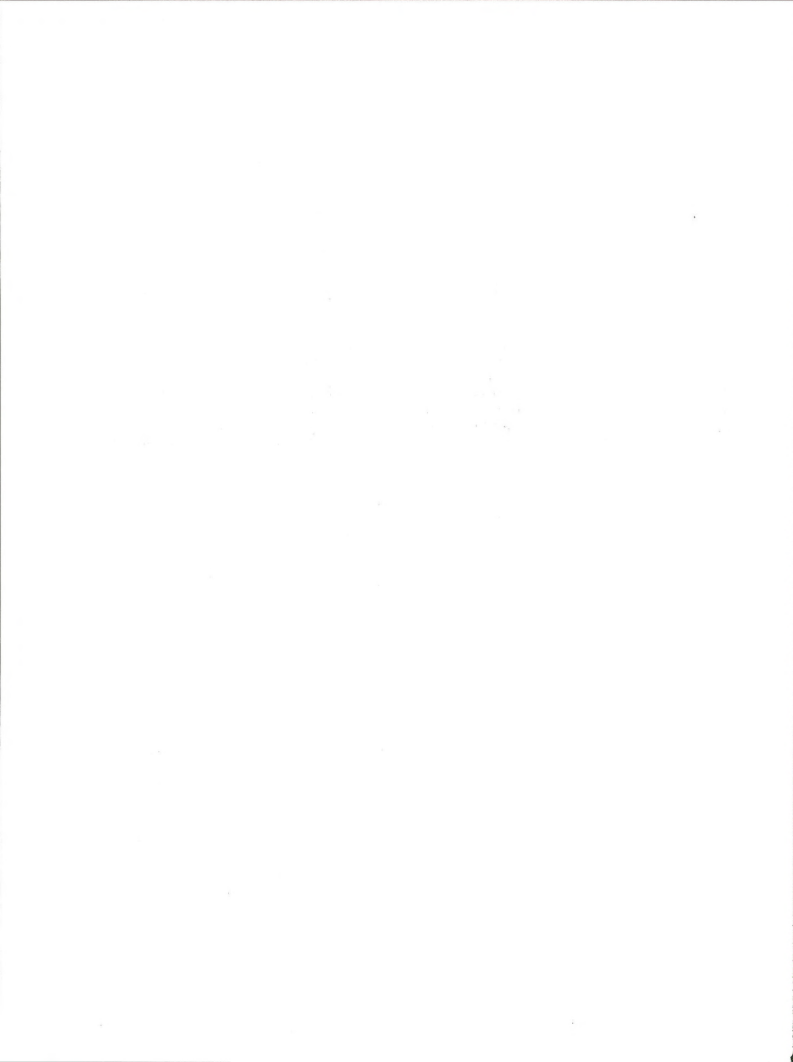
The remaining 6,958 acres will be dropped from further wilderness consideration due to its unnatural character and inability to provide outstanding opportunities to users.



- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|------------------|
| | Sheep Creek | | Residual Areas |
| | Inventory Unit | | State Game Range |
| | BLM | | Forest Service |
| | Private | | State |
| | State | | Reduction Areas |

0 1 2 3
Scale in miles

SHEEP CREEK
MT-075-111B



APPENDIX E

ADDITIONAL WILDERNESS FACTORS CONSIDERED

WILDERNESS DIVERSITY (LANDFORM AND ECOTYPE)

The two WSAs are included in the Northern Rocky Mountains Landform Type 401 (Hammond 1964). There are 17 representatives of this landform in the National Wilderness Preservation System totaling 6,962,644 acres. This includes the Gates-of-the-Mountains Wilderness that lies just southeast of the WSAs in this EIS.

The Sheep Creek and Sleeping Giant WSAs are included in the Rocky Mountain Forest Ecosystem (M3110) according to the Bailey-Kuchler System (Kuchler 1964 and USDA, FS 1976). This is a broad based classification system that does not evaluate site specific vegetative types. The ecosystem that best represents the two WSAs is the Douglas-fir forest (011). See Table E-1.

TABLE E-1
ECOSYSTEM ACRES BY WSA

Ecosystem	Sleeping Giant Acres	Sheep Creek Acres
Douglas-fir Forest (011)	6,487	3,967

DOUGLAS-FIR FOREST (*Pseudotsuga*)

Physiognomy. Medium dense forest of medium tall needleleaf evergreen trees.

Dominants. Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*).

Other Components. *Abies concolor*, *larix occidentalis*, *Physocarpus melvaceous*, *Picea purgens*, *P. glauca* (northern part), *Pinus contorta*, *P. ponderosa* (lower elevations), *Populus tremuloides*.

Occurrence. Northern Rocky Mountains and Washington state.

The addition of these two WSAs would not add to the general ecosystem diversity of areas in the NWPS. At the date of the RARE II study, there were seven existing wilderness areas, five Presidentially endorsed areas and 209 further study areas representing this ecosystem.

WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES

Proximity to Population Centers

The Sleeping Giant and Sheep Creek WSAs are within a five-hour drive (250 miles) of two industrial population concentrations defined as Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Billings has a 1980 population of 68,361 and a county-wide (Yellowstone County) population of 107,661. Great Falls has 56,568 people with a metropolitan area population of 80,639 (Cascade County). See Regional Map.

The two cities are within a five-hour drive of abundant designated wilderness areas. There are five areas containing 2,007,263 acres within 250 miles of Billings and 13 areas totaling 4,381,934 acres within the same radius of Great Falls. See Table E-2.

Montana Wilderness Status Summaries

The following summary tables list the current wilderness status for Montana. The Sleeping Giant/Sheep Creek Study is the last wilderness EIS to be prepared under Section 603 of FLPMA for the BLM in Montana.

Table E-3 lists the wilderness recommendations that will be transmitted with this wilderness study. Table E-4 lists BLM wilderness study areas in Montana where the studies are complete and awaiting Presidential recommendations. Table E-5 lists the present Congressionally designated wilderness areas in Montana. Table E-6 lists wilderness recommendations pending before Congress for all agencies within Montana. Table E-7 lists areas still under wilderness study by other agencies within Montana.

Regional Wilderness Status Summary

Montana, Idaho and Wyoming represent the affected regions for purposes of this analysis since portions of these three states are within a reasonable driving distance (250 miles) of the WSAs. See Regional Map. Residents of these affected states have similar economic and social background and presumably similar demands for wilderness resources. Table E-8 summarizes by state the designated areas, Presidentially endorsed, and further study wilderness areas.

TABLE E-2

PROXIMITY OF WILDERNESS TO POPULATION CENTERS

Status	Population Center	Total Wilderness Acres Within a 5-Hour Travel Time	State	BLM		Other Agencies	
				Number of Areas	Acres	Number of Areas	Acres
Statutory Wilderness	Billings, MT	2,007,274	Montana	1	6,000	3	969,786
			Wyoming	—	—	2	1,037,483
	Great Falls, MT	4,387,934	Montana	1	6,000	2	3,292,917
			Idaho	—	—	1	1,089,017

TABLE E-3

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS TRANSMITTED BY THIS REPORT

BLM District	Resource Area	Report Name	Unit Name	Total Acreage	Acres Recommended Suitable	Acres Recommended Nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Sleeping Giant & Sheep Creek Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement	Sleeping Giant	6,487	0	6,487
			Sheep Creek	3,967	0	3,967

WILDERNESS MANAGEABILITY

Sleeping Giant

Wilderness management of the Sleeping Giant area is highly feasible given its low development potential for minerals, lack of commercial timber, inaccessibility to motorized vehicles, identifiable boundaries and proximity to available resources located at the BLM Holter Lake Recreation area.

Although 40 percent of the WSA sub-surface is privately owned, manageability concerns are insignificant given the low probability of exploration and development activity. Despite this low impact potential, the BLM should ensure long-term preservation by acquiring the mineral rights retained by previous landowners in the WSA.

If the Sleeping Giant area is congressionally designated as wilderness, the boundaries would be established immediately adjacent to private property lines where applicable. In order to accommodate for the existing powerline right-of-way from Falls Gulch to Towhead Gulch, the western

boundary along the maintenance road and powerline would be set 20 feet in from the eastern most intrusion. A second powerline extending along the western and southern shoreline adjacent to private property in T14N, R3W, Section 34 would be excluded from the WSA. The wilderness boundary would be established ten feet from the existing line to accommodate the 20 foot right-of-way.

The shoreline boundary would be established at an elevational line of 5,370 feet which is six vertical feet above the full-pool water level that remains constant yearlong. The recommendation would best accommodate the power project boundary controlled by the Montana Power Company through its license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Sheep Creek

Although management concerns exist for this area, no major obstacles are foreseeable at this time. The potential for commercial mineral reserves and timber is low to nonexistent. The area is inaccessible to motorized vehicles due to its topographic barriers and surrounding road closures.

TABLE E-4
COMPLETED MONTANA BLM WILDERNESS STUDIES
AWAITING PRESIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

District	Resource Area	Plan Name	Unit Name	Unit Number	Total Acreage	Preliminary Recommendations (State Director)
Butte	Headwaters	Humbug Spires ISA Suitability Report/EIS	Humbug Spires	—	11,175	8,791 ac. suitable 2,384 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Headwaters RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Blind Horse Creek	MT-075-102	4,927	4,927 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Headwaters RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Chute Mtn.	MT-075-105	3,205	3,205 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Headwaters RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Deep Cr./Battle Cr.	MT-075-106	3,086	3,086 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Headwaters RA	Black Sage	MT-075-115	5,926	5,926 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Headwaters	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Headwaters RA	Yellowstone River Island	MT-075-133	53	53 ac. nonsuitable
Miles City	Billings	Billings RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Twin Coulee	MT-067-212	6,870	6,870 ac. nonsuitable
Miles City	Billings	Billings RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Pryor Mountain	MT-067-206	16,927	16,927 ac. suitable
Miles City	Billings	Billings RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Burnt Timber Canyon	MT-067-205	3,955	3,430 ac. suitable 525 ac. nonsuitable
Miles City	Billings	Billings RA Resource Management Plan/EIS	Big Horn Tack-on	MT-067-207	4,550	2,550 ac. suitable 2,000 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Ruby Mountains	MT-076-001	26,611	15,615 ac. suitable 10,996 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Blacktail Mtns.	MT-076-002	17,479	10,986 ac. suitable 6,493 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Farlin Creek	MT-076-034	1,139	610 ac. suitable 529 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	E. Fork Blacktail Deer Cr.	MT-076-007	6,180	6,180 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Hidden Pasture Creek	MT-076-022	15,475	15,475 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Bell Limekiln Canyons	MT-076-026	9,588	9,588 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Henneberry Ridge	MT-076-028	9,756	9,756 ac. nonsuitable
Butte	Dillon	Wilderness Planning Amendment/EIS for the Dillon RA	Axolotl Lakes	MT-076-069	6,578	6,578 ac. nonsuitable

TABLE E-4 (continued)
COMPLETED MONTANA BLM WILDERNESS STUDIES
AWAITING PRESIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

District	Resource Area	Plan Name	Unit Name	Unit Number	Total Acreage	Preliminary Recommendations (State Director)
Lewistown	Phillips	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Cow Creek	MT-066-256	34,050	21,590 ac. suitable 12,460 ac. unsuitable
Lewistown	Phillips	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Antelope Creek	MT-066-266	9,600	9,600 ac. suitable
Lewistown	Valley	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Burnt Lodge	MT-065-278	13,730	13,730 ac. suitable
Miles City	Big Dry	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Seven Blackfoot	MT-024-657	20,250	5,710 ac. suitable 14,540 ac. unsuitable
Miles City	Powder River	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Terry Badlands	MT-024-684	43,165	29,020 ac. suitable 14,145 ac. unsuitable
Lewistown	Judith	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Woodhawk	MT-068-246	8,100	8,100 ac. unsuitable
Lewistown	Havre	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Ervin Ridge	MT-068-253	10,200	10,200 ac. unsuitable
Miles City	Big Dry	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Bridge Coulee	MT-024-675	5,900	5,900 ac. unsuitable
Miles City	Big Dry	Missouri Breaks Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Musselshell Breaks	MT-024-677	8,650	8,650 ac. unsuitable
Lewistown	Valley	Bitter Creek Wilderness Suitability Study/EIS	Bitter Creek	MT-064-356	59,660	59,660 ac. unsuitable
Miles City	Powder River	Powder River Resource Management Plan/EIS	Zook Creek	MT-027-701	8,438	8,438 ac. unsuitable
Miles City	Powder River	Powder River Resource Management Plan/EIS	Buffalo Creek	MT-027-702	<u>5,650</u>	<u>5,650 ac. unsuitable</u>
TOTAL BLM		NUMBER OF AREAS	30	380,875 ACRES		138,559 ACRES SUITABLE

TABLE E-5
MONTANA STATUTORY WILDERNESS (ALL AGENCIES)

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Unit Acreage
BLM ¹	Madison	Bear Trap Canyon	—	6,000
	TOTAL BLM	NUMBER OF AREAS	1	6,000 ACRES
FS	Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Park	Absaroka-Beartooth	NF 106	920,377
FS	Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead	Anaconda-Pintlar	NF 003	157,874
FS	Flathead, Teton, Lewis & Clark, Powell	Bob Marshall	NF 005	1,009,356
FS	Lincoln, Sanders	Cabinets	NF 010	94,272
FS	Lewis & Clark	Gates of the Mtns.	NF 027	28,562
FS	Flathead Lake	Great Bear	NF 107	286,700
FS	Missoula	Mission Mtns.	NF 050	73,877
FS	Missoula	Rattlesnake	1-801	20,119
FS	Lewis & Clark, Powell	Scapegoat	NF 073	239,296
FS	Ravalli	Selway-Bitterroot	NF 074	248,893
FS	Granite	Welcome Creek	NF 103	28,135
FS ¹	Madison	Lee Metcalf	—	226,133
	TOTAL FS	NUMBER OF AREAS	12	3,333,594 ACRES
FWS	Beaverhead	Red Rock Lakes	WR-036	32,350
FWS	Sheridan	Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge	WR-027	11,800
FWS	Phillips	UL Bend National Wildlife Refuge	WR-047	20,847
	TOTAL FWS	NUMBER OF AREAS	3	64,997 ACRES
NPS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Administered	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹The 6,000-acre BLM-managed Bear Trap Canyon is one component of the 259,000-acre Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The other units in the wilderness are managed by the Forest Service.

TABLE E-6
MONTANA WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS PENDING
BEFORE CONGRESS (ALL AGENCIES)

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Unit Acreage
FWS	Garfield	East Seven Blackfoot	FW-923-1	12,184
FWS	Phillips	Mickey Butte	FW-923-2	17,413
FWS	Phillips, Valley	Burnt Lodge	FW-923-3	22,976
FWS	Garfield	Billy Creek	FW-923-4	11,556
FWS	Garfield	West Seven Blackfoot	FW-923-5	7,096
FWS	Phillips	Antelope Creek	FW-923-6	5,382
FWS	Garfield	West Mill Creek	FW-923-7	11,896
FWS	Petroleum	Fort Musselshell	FW-923-8	8,303
FWS	Garfield	Sheep Creek	FW-923-9	12,424
FWS	Phillips	West Beauchamp	FW-923-10	6,736
FWS	Garfield	Wagon Coulee	FW-923-11	10,528
FWS	Petroleum	Alkali Creek	FW-923-12	6,592
FWS	Petroleum	Crooked Creek	FW-923-13	6,842
FWS	Garfield	East Hell Creek	FW-923-14	15,984
FWS	Garfield	East Beauchamp	FW-923-15	5,568
	TOTAL FWS	NUMBER OF AREAS	15	161,480 ACRES
NPS	Flathead, Glacier	Glacier	NP-915	917,600
NPS	Park, Gallatin	Yellowstone	NP-928	167,060
	TOTAL NPS	NUMBER OF AREAS	2	1,084,660 ACRES

TABLE E-7
OTHER AGENCY AREAS IN MONTANA UNDER WILDERNESS STUDY OR WITH
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Net Unit Acreage	Acres Recommended
FS	Ravalli	Tolan Creek	X1070	7,088	—
FS	Ravalli	Sleeping Child	X1074	21,423	—
FS	Ravalli	Swift Creek	1065	744	—
FS	Ravalli	Needle Creek	1066	1,085	—
FS	Ravalli	Selway-Bitterroot	1067	109,711	48,305
FS	Ravalli, Granite	Stony Mtn.	1806	103,266	—
FS	Ravalli	Blue Joint	1941	65,370	28,500
FS	Ravalli	Allan Mtn.	1946	102,286	—
FS	Lake	Swan River Island	LIFAA	550	—
FS	Flathead	Benchmark	X1126	6,490	—
FS	Flathead	Coal Ridge	X1127	16,480	—
FS	Flathead	Deadhorse	X1128	23,550	—
FS	Flathead	Standard Peak	X1129	7,770	—
FS	Flathead	Mt. Hefty	1481	13,720	—
FS	Flathead, Lincoln	Tuchuck	1482	19,820	—
FS	Flathead, Lincoln	Mt. Thompson Seton	TS483	71,750	—
FS	Lake, Missoula	Mission Additions	1500-1506	2,340	—
FS	Flathead	Lebeau Creek	L1507	6,210	—

TABLE E-7 (continued)
OTHER AGENCY AREAS IN MONTANA UNDER WILDERNESS STUDY OR WITH
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Net Unit Acreage	Acres Recommended
FS	Flathead, Lake, Missoula, Powell, Lewis & Clark, Teton, Pondera, Glacier	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	1485	865,178	164,945
FS	Lincoln	Zulu Creek	X186	6,400	—
FS	Lincoln	Marston Face	X172	6,000	—
FS	Lincoln	Mt. Willard-Lake Estelle	1173	256	—
FS	Lincoln	Gold Hill (West)	X176	10,200	—
FS	Lincoln	Flagstaff Mt.	X690	9,500	—
FS	Lincoln	Roberts Mt.	X691	2,700	—
FS	Sanders	West Fork Elk Cr.	X692	819	—
FS	Sanders	Rock Creek	X693	400	—
FS	Lincoln	Buckhorn Ridge	1661	27,000	—
FS	Lincoln	Scotchman Peaks	1662	64,280	36,380
FS	Lincoln	Northwest Peaks	1663	19,100	—
FS	Sanders	Trout Creek	1664	31,400	—
FS	Sanders	Cataract	1665	27,600	—
FS	Lincoln	Grizzly Peak	1667	6,000	—
FS	Lincoln	Gold Hill	1668	10,700	—
FS	Sanders, Lincoln	Cabinet Face West	1670	10,900	8,000
FS	Sanders, Lincoln	Cabinet Face East	1671	50,400	20,500
FS	Sanders	Berray Mtn.	1672	8,300	—
FS	Sanders	Government Mtn.	1673	8,600	—
FS	Sanders	Lone Cliff Smeads	1674	6,600	—
FS	Sanders	McNeeley	1675	7,700	—
FS	Sanders	McKay Creek	1676	13,500	6,700
FS	Sanders	Galena	1677	15,500	—
FS	Sanders	East Fork Elk Cr.	1678	5,000	—
FS	Sanders	Chippewa Creek	1682	2,300	400
FS	Lincoln	Ten Lakes & Contiguous Areas	1683-1683A	41,100	31,800
FS	Lincoln	Roderick	1684	24,800	—
FS	Granite	Emerine	X1423	16,161	—
FS	Granite	Sapphires	1421	116,530	—
FS	Granite	Silver King	1424	65,767	—
FS	Granite	North Carp	1425	12,042	—
FS	Granite	Upper East Fork	1426	7,361	—
FS	Deer Lodge	Storm Lake	1427	7,481	5,918
FS	Granite, Powell	Flint Range-Dolus Lake	1428-1429	60,297	—
FS	Silver Bow	Basin Creek	1430	9,888	—
FS	Silver Bow, Madison	Highlands	1431	20,921	—
FS	Jefferson, Silver Bow	O'Neil Creek	1432	6,511	—
FS	Jefferson	Whitetail-Haystack	1433-1434	71,249	—
FS	Granite	Fred Burr	1435	6,643	—
FS	Sanders	McGregor-Thompson	LILAQ	27,850	—
FS	Missoula	Petty Mtn.	X1202	16,980	—
FS	Missoula	Deep Creek	X1814	7,970	—
FS	Missoula	Rattlesnake	X1204	2,700	—
FS	Missoula	Reservation Divide	X1205	16,300	—
FS	Sanders	Baldy Mtn.	X1209	6,680	—
FS	Granite, Missoula	Ward Eagle	X1220	8,570	—
FS	Sanders	Teepee-Spring Cr.	X1786	14,890	—
FS	Sanders	Evans Gulch	X1811	8,830	—
FS	Sanders	Clear Creek	X1812	5,470	—
FS	Sanders	Maple Peak	1141	7,860	—
FS	Mineral	Stevens Peak	1142	600	—
FS	Mineral	Wonderful Peak	1152	1,600	—
FS	Mineral, Missoula	Hoodoo	1301	98,500	81,500

TABLE E-7 (continued)
OTHER AGENCY AREAS IN MONTANA UNDER WILDERNESS STUDY OR WITH
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Net Unit Acreage	Acres Recommended
FS	Mineral	Meadow Cr-Upper N. Fork	1302	7,200	—
FS	Missoula	Marshall Peak	1781	9,400	—
FS	Sanders	Cube-Iron-Silcox	1784	38,100	—
FS	Sanders	Sundance Ridge	1785	7,220	—
FS	Sanders, Mineral	Mount Bushnell	1790	43,070	—
FS	Sanders, Mineral	Cherry Peak	1791	39,640	—
FS	Mineral	Gilt Edge-Silver Creek	1792	11,200	—
FS	Sanders	Patricks Knob-N. Cutoff	1794	17,200	—
FS	Sanders	South Siegel-S. Cutoff	1795	14,800	—
FS	Sanders	North Siegel	1796	10,000	—
FS	Mineral	Marble Point	1798	13,170	—
FS	Mineral	Sheep Mtn.-St. Line	1799	40,500	—
FS	Missoula	Stark Mtn.	1800	14,140	—
FS	Missoula	Burdette	1803	16,380	—
FS	Missoula, Ravalli	Lolo Creek	1805	15,247	—
FS	Granite	Welcome Creek	1806	1,100	—
FS	Granite	Quigg	1807	81,985	60,830
FS	Missoula	Garden Point	1809	6,500	—
FS	Park, Sweetgrass,				
	Stillwater	North Absaroka	1371	181,759	—
FS	Meagher, Park	Crazy Mtns.	1541	87,100	—
FS	Gallatin	Bridger Mtns.	1543	45,402	—
FS	Park	Republic Mtn.	1545	700	500
FS	Park	Chico Peak	1547	10,855	—
FS	Gallatin	Gallatin Divide-Hyalite	1548	158,109	—
FS	Gallatin	Dry Canyon	1550	2,160	—
FS	Park	Beartooth	1912	5,900	—
FS	Park	Reef	1914	2,200	—
FS	Park	Lionhead	1963	32,780	22,800
FS	Lewiw & Clark,	Hedges Mtn. &	X1613		
	Broadwater	Middleman Mtn.	& 1612	32,865	—
FS	Lewis & Clark,				
	Broadwater	Hellgate Gulch	X1614	18,196	—
FS	Lewis & Clark,				
	Broadwater, Meagher	Cayuse Mtn.	X1615	18,550	—
FS	Lewis & Clark, Powell	Lincoln Gulch	1601	8,125	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Anaconda Hill	1602	17,461	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Specimen Creek	1603	11,281	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Crater Mtn.	1604	8,991	—
FS	Lewis & Clark, Powell	Ogden Mtn.	1605	12,140	—
FS	Lewis & Clark, Powell	Nevada Mtn.	1606	49,530	—
FS	Lewis & Clark, Powell	Jericho Mtn.	1607	8,968	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Lazyman Gulch	1608	11,928	—
FS	Powell, Jefferson	Electric Peak	1609	46,497	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Gates of the Mtns.	1610	11,717	9,974
FS	Lewis & Clark	Devils Tower	1611	7,018	—
FS	Broadwater, Meagher	Camas Creek	1616	28,286	—
FS	Broadwater, Meagher	Mount Baldy	1617	16,114	—
FS	Broadwater, Meagher	Grassy Mtn.	1618	6,444	—
FS	Meagher	Ellis Canyon	1619	8,636	—
FS	Broadwater, Meagher	Irish Gulch	1621	7,330	—
FS	Carbon	Lost Water Canyon	1362	9,800	9,800
FS	Carbon	Red Lodge Creek-			
		Hellroaring	1363	14,760	—
FS	Carbon	Burnt Mtn.	1364	9,320	—
FS	Carbon, Stillwater	Fishtail-Saddleback Mtn.	1366	16,560	—
FS	Stillwater-Sweetgrass	West of Woodbine	1369	2,000	—
FS	Carbon	Black Butte	1368	880	—
FS	Powder River	Cook Mtn.	1370	11,700	—

TABLE E-7 (continued)
OTHER AGENCY AREAS IN MONTANA UNDER WILDERNESS STUDY OR WITH
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agency	County(s)	Unit Name	Unit Number	Net Unit Acreage	Acres Recommended
FS	Rosebud	King Mtn.	1372	11,700	—
FS	Carbon	Line Cr. Plateau	1911	20,680	—
FS	Carbon	Rock Creek	1913	200	—
FS	Lewis & Clark	Sawtooth	1721	15,500	—
FS	Cascade, Meagher	Tenderfoot-Deep Creek	1726	88,400	—
FS	Cascade	Pilgrim Creek	1727	49,500	—
FS	Cascade, Judith Basin	Paine Gulch	1728	8,500	—
FS	Cascade	Sawmill Creek	1729	12,800	—
FS	Judith Basin	TW Mtn.	1730	8,500	—
FS	Judith Basin, Cascade	Big Baldy	1731	44,000	—
FS	Judith Basin	Granite Mtn.	1732	10,580	—
FS	Judith Basin	Tollgate-Sheep	1733	26,800	—
FS	Judith Basin	Mount High	1735	32,300	—
FS	Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin	Highwood-Baldy	1737	15,600	—
FS	Choteau, Judith Basin	Highwoods	1738	24,100	—
FS	Meagher, Wheatland	Bluff Mtn.	1740	37,120	—
FS	Meagher	Spring Creek	1741	19,800	—
FS	Meagher	Box Canyon	1742	11,647	—
FS	Meagher	Castle Mtns.	1743	29,600	—
FS	Meagher	North Fork of Smith	1744	8,800	—
FS	Meagher	Calf Creek	1745	11,020	—
FS	Meagher	Eagle Park	1746	6,300	—
FS	Beaverhead	Beaver Lake	X1003	13,474	—
FS	Beaverhead	Saginaw Creek	X1004	8,493	—
FS	Beaverhead	Tash Peak	X1005	62,119	—
FS	Beaverhead	West Pioneers	X1006	90,750	—
FS	Beaverhead	Call Mtn.	X1009	10,179	—
FS	Beaverhead	Cattle Gulch Ridge	X1010	18,891	—
FS	Beaverhead	Fleecer	X1011	36,873	—
FS	Deer Lodge, Beaverhead	Granulated Mtn.	X1012	16,266	—
FS	Beaverhead	Bear Creek	X1015	8,252	—
FS	Beaverhead	Mckenzie Canyon	X1016	33,652	—
FS	Beaverhead	Sourdough Peak	X1017	14,838	—
FS	Beaverhead	Timber Butte	X1018	5,018	—
FS	Beaverhead	Dixon Mtn.	X1019	3,982	—
FS	Beaverhead	Four Eyes Canyon	X1020	6,856	—
FS	Madison	Sheep Mtn.	X1021	32,115	—
FS	Madison	Crockett Lakes	X1022	6,830	—
FS	Madison	Cherry Lakes	X1023	12,940	—
FS	Madison	Vigilante	X1024	16,458	—
FS	Madison, Beaverhead	Snowcrest Mtn.	X1025	97,630	—
FS	Madison	Black Butte	X1026	39,787	—
FS	Madison	Big Horn Mtn.	X1027	50,390	—
FS	Madison	Lone Butte	X1028	14,138	—
FS	Madison, Beaverhead	Freezeout Mtn.	X1029	95,098	—
FS	Beaverhead	Anderson Mtn.	X1942	48,451	—
FS	Beaverhead	Goat Mtn.	X1944	9,454	—
FS	Deer Lodge, Beaverhead	North Big Hole	1001	56,779	6,571
FS	Beaverhead	East Pioneer	1008	144,558	80,273
FS	Madison	Middle Mtn.-Tobacco			
		Roots	1013	93,327	—
FS	Madison	Potosi	1014	5,465	—
FS	Beaverhead	West Big Hole	1943	130,660	55,014

TABLE E-7 (continued)
OTHER AGENCY AREAS IN MONTANA UNDER WILDERNESS STUDY OR WITH
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

FS	Beaverhead	Italian Peak	1945	90,917	12,907
FS	Beaverhead	Garfield Mtn.	1961	42,777	—
FS	Beaverhead	Mt. Jefferson	1962	4,474	—
TOTAL FS		NUMBER OF AREAS	180	5,611,789 ACRES	691,617 ACRES
NPS	Big Horn	Big Horn Canyon	—	7,645	—
TOTAL NPS		NUMBER OF AREAS	1	7,645 ACRES	—

"X" before the unit number indicates a new roadless area that was identified through the forest planning process, not through RARE II.

TABLE E-8
REGIONAL WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES

State	Agency	Designated Wilderness Areas		Agency	Presidentially Endorsed Areas		Agency	Further Study Planning Areas	
		Number of Areas	Acres		Number of Areas	Acres		Number of Areas	Acres
Montana	FS	12	3,360,342	NPS	2	1,084,660	BLM	35	438,801
	FWS	3	64,997					1	7,645
	BLM	1	6,000		15	161,480			
	Total	16	3,431,339		Total	17		Total	36
Idaho	FS	5	3,825,069	NPS	1	69,880	BLM	58	1,534,116
	NPS	1	42,243						
	Total	6	3,867,312		Total	1		Total	58
						69,880			1,534,116
Wyoming	FS	6	2,193,220	BLM	35	542,046	BLM	35	542,046
	NPS	2	1,848,744						
	Total	6	2,193,220		Total	2		Total	35
						1,848,744			542,046

FS - Forest Service

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

FWS - Fish and Wildlife Service

NPS - National Park Service

Finally, management costs would not be significantly increased due to the available BLM personnel and resources at the nearby Holter Lake Recreation Area.

The east and west boundaries are readily identifiable to visitors as they conform with the established powerline/maintenance road and a prominent ridgeline. To mitigate for the absence of noticeable features along the north and south boundary, signs would be posted at applicable intervals. In order to ensure long-term visitor access along the prominent ridgeline just south of the WSA, the BLM should acquire fee title or a nonmotorized, public easement to all

of Section 1 in T13N, R4W. Finally, the private mineral estate should be acquired by BLM irrespective of the designated alternative, to permanently ensure the long-term preservation of the area's resource values.

Wilderness boundaries of the proposed WSA would be established along BLM legal property lines wherever appropriate. The western boundary would follow the highest elevation point along the prominent topographic ridgeline while the east boundary would be established 20 feet west of the existing powerline.

GLOSSARY

(Including Acronyms and Abbreviations)

ALLOTMENT. An area designated for the use of a prescribed number of sheep or cattle.

AUM. Animal Unit Month. A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the complete subsistence of one animal unit (one cow or one horse or five sheep, all over six months old) for one month; also, a unit of measurement of grazing privilege which represents the privilege of grazing one animal for a period of one month.

BAILEY-KUCHLER SYSTEM. A land classification system which divides the United States into various ecosystems based upon an integration of the natural factors of climate, vegetation, soils, and landform.

BLM. Bureau of Land Management.

CULTURAL RESOURCE. Evidence of human behavior.

ECOSYSTEM. Collectively, all populations in a community, plus the associated environmental factor.

EIS. Environmental Impact Statement.

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Plant or animal species identified by the Secretary of the Interior as endangered in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). A detailed written report for a proposal on which a significant impact or land allocation is anticipated.

FORAGE. Refers specifically to all browse and nonwoody plants that are available to livestock or game animals and used for grazing or harvested for feeding.

FORBS. Foot; a broadleaf herb other than grass. See forage also.

FLPMA. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

FS. Forest Service.

FWS. Fish and Wildlife Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Interior.

HABITAT TYPE. An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax.

IMPACT. The effect, influence, alteration or imprint of an activity.

INTERMITTENT CREEKS. Drainages where streamflow occurs during wet weather, usually fifty percent of the year.

INHOLDING. A parcel of nonpublic land surrounded by public land.

ISSUE. A subject or question of widespread public interest identified through public participation.

LEASABLE MINERALS. Those minerals or materials subject to lease by the federal government. Includes oil and gas, coal, phosphate, sodium, potash, and oil shale.

LOCATABLE MINERALS. Minerals or materials subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestones, talc, some zeolites, etc.).

MDFWP. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

MITIGATE. The lessen the severity.

MULTIPLE USE. The management of all the various resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people.

NATURALNESS. Refers to an area that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" (from Section 2 (c), Wilderness Act).

NWPS. National Wilderness Preservation System.

OFF ROAD VEHICLE. Any vehicle capable of being operated off an established road or trail; e.g. motorbikes, four-wheeled drive vehicles and snowmobiles.

ORV. Off road vehicle.

OUTSTANDING. Unusual among others of its kind conspicuous; prominent. Superior to others of its kind, distinguished, excellent.

PATENTED CLAIM. A claim on which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the 1872 mining law.

PERENNIAL CREEKS. Drainages where water flow persists ninety percent of the year in well-defined channels.

PLANNING CRITERIA. The factors used to guide development or revision of the resource management plan to ensure that it is tailored to the issue previously identified and to ensure that necessary data collection and analysis are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, the analysis of the management situation, the design and formulation of alternatives, the estimation of the effects of alternatives, the evaluation of alternatives, and the selection of the preferred alternative.

POLICY. A guiding principle which is based on a specific decision or set of decisions.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION. Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

PUBLIC LANDS. Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES. Meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, response to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the general public and specific publics.

RARE II. Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II. RECREATION (Developed). That type of recreation that occurs where modifications (improvements) enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area.

RECREATION (Dispersed). That type of recreation use that requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves activities related to roads and trails. The activities do not necessarily take place on or adjacent to a road or trail, only in conjunction.

RECREATION VISITOR DAY. One visitor day equals 12 hours (one person for 12 hours, or 12 people for 1 hour, or any combination thereof).

RIPARIAN. Land areas which are directly influenced by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streambanks, lake borders, or marshes are typical riparian areas.

RMP. Resource Management Plan. The Bureau's basic land use plan after 1979.

ROAD. Vehicle routes that have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

SOLITUDE. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely, unfrequented or secluded place.

SMSA. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. A county that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants plus any adjacent urban territory.

SUITABILITY. As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis or an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES. A species or subspecies of animals or plants whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, or likely to become so within the foreseeable future. Threatened species are identified by the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

USDI. United States Department of Interior.

VISITOR DAY. The use of an area for a total of 12 person hours by one or more people, either continuously or over several visits.

VISUAL RESOURCE. The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for visitors.

WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. Quantitative or qualitative criteria for chemical, physical and biological characteristics that are established for the purpose of providing water that is suitable for specific uses.

WATERSHED. A drainage basin feeding a stream, river, or lake.

WILDERNESS. Under the 1964 Wilderness Act, wilderness is undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation. It is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions which generally appear to have been affected by the forces of nature with the imprints of human activity substantially unnoticeable; has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive recreation; has at least 5,000 acres or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation, enjoyment and use in an unimpaired condition; and may contain features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value as well as ecological interest.

WILDERNESS INVENTORY. An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing

those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as wilderness study areas (WSAs).

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT. The management of human use and influence on lands that have been designated by Act of Congress as wilderness areas.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY. A policy document presenting the general objectives, policies, and specific activity guidance applicable to all designated BLM wildernesses. Specific management objectives, requirements, and decisions implementing administrative practices and visitor activities in individual wildernesses are developed and described in the wilderness management plan for each unit.

WSA. Wilderness Study Area. A parcel of public land that through the BLM's wilderness inventory process has been found to possess the basic wilderness characteristics of being at least 5,000 acres in size, being primarily natural and having outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

WILDERNESS SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS. A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

WILDERNESS REPORTING. The process of preparing the reports containing wilderness recommendations on wilderness study areas and transmitting those reports to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress.

WILDERNESS REVIEW. The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting process of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

WILDERNESS VALUES. The wilderness characteristics and multiple resource benefits of an area.



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